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THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
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Photographer says he was denied Indian visa for Kashmir remarks
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NEARBY

Missing transport broker found murdered

NEW DELHI

A transport broker, who was reported missing, was found killed in a drain in Narela's Alipur on Sunday. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the case. DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said the victim, Manish (30), of Narela Sector B2, was a broker in Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

SIT quizzes law student's friends, college staff

SHAHJAHANPUR

The special investigation team, probing the alleged rape of a law student by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, on Sunday examined three male friends of the victim, besides some employees of her college. The victim's friends who were examined, included the one who was with her when she was located in Rajasthan after having gone missing in August.

NORTH ▸ PAGE 5

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ 4 PAGES

Eight dead, 37 missing as boat capsizes in flooded Godavari

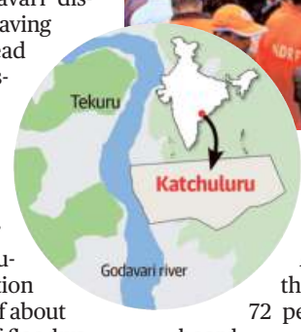
As many as 27 rescued from the vessel that had no permission to operate

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
THARUN BODA
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

In a major tragedy in Andhra Pradesh, a private boat carrying tourists to Papikondalu capsized in Godavari River near Katchuluru village of East Godavari district on Sunday, leaving at least eight dead and over 37 missing. As many as 27 were rescued.

The accident occurred post-noon when the boat 'Vashista' headed to the tourist destination against an inflow of about five lakh cusecs of floodwater in the Godavari, which has been in spate for the past several days. The boat, which had no permission to operate from the government, began the trip from Singanapalli Revu in Devipatnam mandal.

Alert locals of Katchuluru village rescued about 14 persons. Most of the tourists who survived were wearing life jackets, locals said.



Going all-out: Rescue operation going on in Godavari. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Admitted to hospital

The survivors were initially admitted to the Rampachodavaram Area Hospital and they quickly recovered.

East Godavari Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi said there were 72 persons on board, including about eight boat crew members, at the time of the accident. Eight bodies have been retrieved.

However, the number of persons on board and the number of victims couldn't be confirmed as different government agencies, including the district administration and the Revenue Department, were giving different figures.

While some of the rescue teams have been withdrawn from the operation, National Disaster Response Force teams will continue the search for survivors through the night.

An Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) chopper has also been pressed into service. More rescue teams will be engaged early on Monday.

Navy deploys aircraft

The Navy has deployed a Dornier aircraft to assist the rescue operations.

Two Naval helicopters would also be deployed from INS Dega at daybreak on Monday, according to an official release.

Deep divers team

A specialised deep divers team with 'Side Scan Sonar' equipment from Uttarakhand will join the rescue operations on Monday.

A majority of the tourists were from Hyderabad, Warangal and Visakhapatnam cities in Telangana.

The State government has announced an exgratia of ₹10 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

Boat services suspended

The government ordered the immediate suspension of boat services in the region.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who enquired about the accident, directed the officials to carry out the rescue operations on a war footing.

President Ramnath Kovind tweeted that his prayers were with the bereaved families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a message on Twitter that he was extremely pained by the tragedy.

Mr. Modi said his thoughts were with the bereaved families and that rescue operations were under way at the site of the tragedy. He also asked available Ministers in the district to visit the spot and supervise the rescue and search operations.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan offered his condolences to members of the bereaved families.

BOAT TRAGEDY EXPOSES SERIOUS SAFETY LAPSES ▸ PAGE 8

Voices grow louder against Shah's pitch to push Hindi

Comments contrary to spirit of Constitution, says CPI(M)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that Hindi, as the most spoken language, could work to unite the country continued to draw sharp reaction from the Opposition parties on Sunday.

"The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly opposes these efforts, which stem from the RSS conception of one nation, one culture, one language," the party said in a statement, rejecting the "imposition of Hindi".

The party said Mr. Shah's "announcement that Hindi should be treated as the national language runs contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and our country's linguistic diversity".

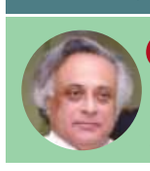
Bid to trigger row

In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the move as a planned attempt to trigger a controversy and divert attention from real issues.

Speaking at an event in Bengaluru, Congress Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh said "one nation-one language" would never be a reality. "We may have one nation-one tax, but one nation-one language will never be a reality...," he said.

"We are one nation, we are many languages, we are one nation-many countries," Mr. Ramesh was quoted as saying by PTI.

> Amit Shah has willfully exacerbated language divisions to divert public attention from critical issues... This is a conspiracy by the Sangh Parivar to open a new battlefront in the name of the language to produce more schisms in society
>
> PINARAYI VIJAYAN, Kerala Chief Minister



> We may have one nation-one tax, one nation-one election, but under no circumstances can we have one nation-one culture, one nation-one language
>
> JAIRAM RAMESH, Congress Rajya Sabha member

DMK president M.K. Stalin accused the Centre of "autocratic imposition of Hindi", calling for unity among Opposition parties on the issue.

Speaking at a public meeting organised by ally MDMK on the 111th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai in Chennai, Mr Stalin said, "If we close our eyes for a second, they will impose Hindi and completely discard Tamil. We have been protesting against this since 1938. We protested in 1949, 1950, 1953, 1963 and 1965. We have once again arrived at a stage where we have to protest."

Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy also joined the chorus of protests.

Earlier on Saturday, several Opposition parties – including DMK – had opposed Mr. Shah's pitch for Hindi.

The Congress said the three-language formula should not be tinkered with. The remarks also triggered protests in Karnataka.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted: "My best wishes to all on Hindi Diwas. We should respect all languages and cultures equally. We may learn many languages but we should never forget our mother-language."

The CPI said the comments smacked of an attack on the very concept of diversity. "The need today is to respect, protect and nurture diversity of our nation so that unity is ensured. The Home Minister's statement is an attack on federalism extending the politics and ideology of RSS to every sphere of life," it said.

A CONSPIRACY BY SANGH PARIVAR: PINARAYI ▸ PAGE 8

It's raining protest

Mega march: Protesters taking out a march in Hong Kong on Sunday in defiance of a police ban and demanding reforms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. They urged the U.K. to do more to protect its former colonial subjects. ▪ AP (PAGE 14)

NRC will be compiled in Haryana too: Khattar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANCHKULA

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said a National Register of Citizens will be compiled in Haryana. He was speaking to the media after meeting Justice (retired) H.S. Bhalla, former chairman of the Haryana Human Rights Commission. He also met former Admiral J.S. Lamba and Lt. Gen. (retired) Baljit Singh Jaiswal under the BJP's 'Maha Sampark Abhiyan' – an outreach programme to get feedback on the work of the government in the last five years. It concluded on Sunday.

"Under this campaign, we met prominent citizens. We talked about steps for taking the country forward. I spoke to Justice Bhalla on the NRC exercise. He is going on a tour of Assam to study NRC data. His services would be useful for compiling the NRC in Haryana," said Mr. Khattar.

Manohar Lal Khattar

He said the government was working at a fast pace on the family identity card, and its data would be used in the NRC exercise.

"Constitution of a Law Commission is being considered. A separate department would also be established to utilise the services of intellectuals, professionals and eminent persons in an audit of the development works undertaken," he said.

Saudis to tap oil reserves after attacks on plants

6% of global crude supplies hit; markets closely watch situation

AGENCE FRANCE PRESS
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia will use its vast oil reserves to offset disruption to production, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said on Sunday. Drone attacks on two major oil facilities on Saturday knocked 5.7 million barrels per day (bpd) off production – close to 6% of the global crude supplies.

"Part of the drop will be compensated to clients" from storage facilities, Mr. Salman said in a statement.

The disruption represents half the output of the kingdom, which is the world's biggest oil supplier.

Aramco has said work is under way to restore full production. ▪ AFP

Riyadh has built five giant underground storage facilities across the country that can hold tens of millions of barrels of various refined petroleum products, to be tapped into during times of crisis.

The facilities were constructed between 1988 and 2009 and cost tens of billions of dollars.

As markets closely watch the situation, Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said "work is under way" to restore full production.

IRAN REJECTS CHARGE ▸ PAGE 14

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Gooseberry candy rescues Assam nutrition drive

Women who were given iron-folic acid tablets and reported unpleasant effects could opt for alternative

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A drive for good nutrition among pregnant women and children in a southern Assam district has been given a gooseberry candy twist. This follows a report that the targeted groups find the prescribed iron-folic acid tablets repulsive.

According to the 2015 National Family Health Survey, 47.2% of the women of reproductive age in Hailakandi were anaemic. The district, thus, has the most anaemic children below 5 years, adolescents and women of reproductive age in Assam.

But mothers, pregnant women and children in the district, data reveal, consume only 24.3% of the total iron-folic acid tablets that the district receives and distributes. "The tablets given to these groups are often not consumed as they feel nauseated or have constipation issues. There are also myths that these tablets will kill them or make them incapable of conceiving," District Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli told *The Hindu*.

Sweet-sour solution: Gooseberry candy adds nutrients to fight anaemia, among women in particular. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amla, jaggery combo

To get around the problem while launching *Poshan Maah*, or nutrition month, a few days ago, the district administration decided to produce roundish amla-gur candies with a dose of salt. Nutritionists involved in the campaign said amla, or gooseberry, is rich in Vitamin C and antioxidants, while gur, or jaggery, is rich in iron, vital vitamins and minerals that boost the immune system.

"The gooseberry candy is a home-made recipe, and is provided alongside iron-folic acid tablets as behavioural change in nutritious eating is a slow process. If women and children avoid the tablet, they can get the required vitamin and mineral inputs through the improvised delicacy of which ingredients are available locally," Ms. Jalli said. The candy is cost-effective too, she said. Anganwadi workers, supervisors and mothers have been engaged to prepare and distribute the 'laddoos' with the ingredients given by the district authorities.

"This is a novel initiative that should go a long way in checking anaemia that increases the risk during pregnancy and at childbirth, besides resulting in low birth weight and malnourished children," Anganwadi worker Labiba Begum Barlaskar said.

About 32.5% of the children aged below five in Hailakandi are underweight. The average figure for Assam is 30%.

IN BRIEF

BA 1st year classes at SOL cancelled

NEW DELHI

Classes of first year BA programme at all centres of the School of Open Learning, Delhi University, were allegedly cancelled forcing several students to return home, students' group KYSS said. The classes were cancelled due to the unpreparedness of the administration in preparing the CBCS curriculum implemented this year, the group said, adding that even teachers' appointments had not been finalised for the current session. Students carried out protests in this regard, the group said. The students' wing announced that it would carry out protests on Monday also.

Panel to be formed to study NCR development

NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) is likely to constitute a committee of town planners and other experts to conduct a study for sustainable development of "far-reaching" areas of NCR, officials said. The committee is also likely to study as to why population density is more in some areas surrounding Delhi, but in other areas of NCR, it is relatively less, officials also said. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	72	Gurugram	45
Ghaziabad	64	Faridabad	-
Noida	61	Greater Noida	64

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200 | Poor 201-300 | Very poor 301-400 | Severe >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Talk: 12th Annual Ieshr Lecture: "Cosmopolitan Aesthetics of Empire: Arts, Politics, and Commerce in the Construction of Sultan Süleyman's Magnificence", by Prof. Gülru Necipoğlu. The lecture highlights the generally overlooked cosmopolitanism of visual court culture prior to the mature "classical" Ottoman idiom associated with Sultan Süleyman's reign after the mid-1540s, at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Talk: "Cultural Labour: Conceptualising the 'Folk Performance' in India" an illustrated lecture by Dr. Brahma Prakash, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU. Chair: Dr. Shubha Chaudhuri, Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology, American Institute of Indian Studies, at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: A solo painting exhibition by Jaskirat Singh and Sunil Chopra at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Lucid", an amalgamation of two series of works by photographer Abhishek Basu at Art Explore, 23 Lakeside, Hauz Khas Village, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Screening: "Unishe April", a Bengali feature film with English subtitles, directed by Rituparno Ghosh will be screened at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Book market reopens, vendors not on same page on relocation

They say deal struck on relocation could destroy claim to permanent resettlement; some question procedural lapses, others accept the change

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

After nearly two months in abeyance, the weekly book market at Daryaganj reopened at Mahila Haat complex nearby, on Sunday. However, while some rejoiced at the return of business, others opposed the deal struck between leaders of the market association and municipal authorities on relocation, saying it could destroy any claim to permanent resettlement.

Both factions are now eagerly awaiting the next date of hearing before the High Court on September 25.

At Mahila Haat, an elevated garden complex about 150 metres from the old location, Vijay Pal, who runs a student library in Rajasthan's Sujangarh, was relieved to see books spread across rows of tarpaulin sheets.

Shopkeepers at the Sunday book bazaar at Mahila Haat in the Capital. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Book vendors staging a protest against relocation on Asaf Ali Road . ▪SIDHARTH RAVI

'More organised'

Mr. Pal said, "I have been coming to the market every two months or so to restock our library and I am glad it is back." Compared to the earlier location, where he argued one would have to shuffle through tight spaces, he said, the market seemed more organised and required less walking.

'Cleaner, safer'

While footfall was low on the first day of reopening, vendors believed it would soon pick up, adding that the area was cleaner and safer.

Following protracted negotiations between the representatives of the market association and civic authorities, Rajinder Singh, general secretary of the association said that the Zonal Deputy Commissioner had assured them the allotment of the area. While he said that orders had not been drawn up yet, vendors are being rented 4X6 feet plots each at a rate of ₹200 a day. The agreement would be reviewed after two years and the rent would be increased by 10%, he added.

'Invalid agreement'

Vendors opposing the move argued that the agreement was invalid as the representatives who entered into it had tendered resignations on September 1.

A book vendor unsure of whether to set up his stall sits outside Mahila Haat. ▪SIDHARTH RAVI

Sumit Verma, one of those vendors who refused to move, argued that without following proper procedure and establishing documentary proof, all booksellers would lose their claim to permanent resettlement.

In a letter to the Deputy Commissioner sent last week, the market association argued that the eviction of the vendors without a proper survey and other procedures was illegal under the Street Vendors Act.

"The police are not even able to produce a proper order or a seizure memo for lifting their goods every weekend," said Ankit Jha of the National Hawkers Federation who termed the move illegal.

While the High Court warranted the removal of the market from Netaji Subhash Marg, vendors squatting on adjacent Asaf Ali Road have also been facing eviction.

> **There are two angles from which the vendors are looking at the market. While one section sees it as an upgrade, the other sees it as a loss of a thing of the past**
>
> KANUPRIYA DHINGRA
> Book history scholar

"If assurances are broken then we can always take to the streets," said Kamar Saeed, the ousted president of the market association. There are, however, several people who cannot afford to keep fighting in courts, he said.

"There are two angles from which the vendors are looking at the market," said Kanupriya Dhingra, a book history scholar at SOAS. While one section sees it as an "upgrade", the other sees it as a loss of "a thing of past" she said, adding: "This is not just a dynamic physiognomic change, but also a cultural shift. From being a *patri kitaab bazaar*, it is now a market, implying that there will be a shift in how the new space will function."

Delhi Book Fair celebrates its silver jubilee

Five-day fair gave customers less time to browse this year, say sellers

AARUSHI AGARWAL
NEW DELHI

Eleven-year-old Kaustubhi and Rudraksh Saxena (14) were waiting for their parents at Pragati Maidan after having bought comics, history books and some stationery from their wishlist. Having taken an exam in the morning, they were happy to be at the book fair and said they have been visiting it for at least 5 years.

The Saxena siblings were one of the many children who have been thronging the Annual Delhi Book Fair held at Pragati Maidan.

Typically a nine-day-long event otherwise, this year's fair commenced on September 11 and ended on Sunday – much to the chagrin of booksellers across the city to whom the fair brings a lot of profit.

Book-lovers thronging stalls at the Annual Delhi Book Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'September not ideal'

Sandeep Madan (40) has been dealing in the business of books since 22 years and runs a book store in Pitam Pura with his elder brother. He complained that this year's fair, being a shorter one, did not benefit anyone as "customers had lesser time to browse"

Mr. Madan said, "September is the worst month for the book fair with schoolchildren writing their half-yearly exams."

Even so, young children were aplenty at both the book and stationery fairs.

D.K. Kapur, manager of Jaico Publishing House, meanwhile, said he was happy to find "that the younger generation is keen on reading".

Jaico Publishing House stall is one of those which attracts a lot of customers. They lure them by offering 10% discount on books. Mr. Kapur said that he managed to sell books worth ₹10 lakh, adding that, "The fair is always a good idea."

Rajat Malik, a 20-year-old third-year student of English at Delhi University's Motilal Nehru College, hopes to write his own anthology of poetry. "I have come for fiction and course books and in fact, anything that can help me with my own book." When asked about his favourite stall, he said, "Definitely the one where I can get three or four books for just ₹100."

Smita Bhatia, an associate professor of zoology at Ramjas College, said she could not count the number of years since she has been coming to the fair. "My profession gives me an opportunity to look at new books and I often suggest the good ones to our library for procurement," she added.

Rudraksh recalled his first visit to the book fair. He said he was just eight back then and had got lost at a stall. He was looking for books at the stall when his father drifted elsewhere.

While picking story books for her four-year-old son, former dentist Shipra Sharma said that she had been coming to the fair since she was a child. The long drive from Rohini, where she lives, "is totally worth it," she said.

Fight against dengue: CM visits residential areas

Delhiites encouraged to join campaign

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday visited residential areas to encourage Delhiites to join the campaign he started to clean stagnant water once a week as part of the fight against dengue. He visited residents in the Gole Market area of his constituency, Kohat Enclave and Burari.

Speaking at Gole Market, the CM said: "In 2015, 15,000 people contracted dengue and 60 people lost their lives. In 2018, Delhi had just 2,700 cases. We were warned by doctors that this year there is likely to be a sudden spike in cases because the dengue outbreak follows a cycle of 3-4 years. We don't want Delhi to suffer from an epidemic. That is why we have started this mega drive against dengue."

Speaking to residents of Kohat Enclave, he said that many people have a misconception that dengue mosquitoes breed in dirty water. "It is very important to be aware of the fact that the dengue mosquito only breeds in clean water. Clean water is generally found inside our houses and that is why this mosquito generally breeds inside our houses," Mr. Kejriwal said.

> **There is no alternative to a mass movement against dengue. Together, we can save Delhi from dengue**
>
> ARVIND KEJRIWAL
> Chief Minister

He added that if anyone in your family has dengue there is a high possibility that the mosquito was bred in your home or a neighbouring house.

"The nature of dengue is such that only individual families can protect themselves from harm. Therefore, there is no alternative to a mass movement against dengue. Together, we can save Delhi from dengue," the CM said.

The entire Cabinet of the Delhi government toured different parts of the city to check whether their constituents were inspecting their homes for dengue breeding spots.

Railway police helpline flooded with food delivery requests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The railway police in Delhi are having a tough time as a bulk of phone calls – about 80% – on its helpline per day is related to requests for pizza delivery, mobile recharges or other such trivial matters.

200 calls a day

The Delhi railway police control room receives 200 phone calls on an average on its 1512 helpline daily, and 80% of such calls are from passengers either requesting the staff to get eatables such as pizzas and burgers delivered to them or enquire about railway jobs, the police said on Sunday.

"Get my phone recharged, get pizza delivered, I want two burgers, tea, juices, cold water are some of the demands the passengers make," a senior police officer said.

There are also passengers who seek police assistance in getting their electricity bill paid or train tickets booked.

5-member panel to work on Deshbhakti curriculum

'It will redefine narrative on nationalism'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has formed a five-member committee to work on the "Deshbhakti curriculum" to be introduced in its schools to "redefine the existing narrative on nationalism, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said here.

The narrative is "currently limited to chanting *Bharat mata ki jai*", Mr. Sisodia said and stressed that children must learn that nationalism means doing your bit for the country in everyday life.

Mr. Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister of Delhi, rejected suggestions that the Aam Aadmi Party government was trying to ape the BJP agenda ahead of the Assembly polls, saying nationalism is neither the BJP's nor AAP's.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced last month that his government will introduce "Deshbhakti curriculum" in government schools next year to create a class of patriotic citizens

"Many people have been calling me saying that nationalism is the BJP's agenda why is AAP doing this," Mr. Sisodia said.

Our definition of nationalism is very different. Patriotism is not just about chanting *Bharat mata ki jai* but doing your bit for the country, he said.

Mr. Sisodia added that a child needs to learn that when somebody jumps a red light or pays a bribe, he or she is cheating the country and that is what the curriculum will be all about.

He said a committee of five members, including officials from SCERT, education researchers and teachers, has been formed to work on the curriculum draft.

The Chief Minister is likely to meet the team in the coming week, he added.

We knew that the moment the word 'nationalism' comes, it will be seen in a negative context but why should we refrain from doing so, he said.

RAPID METRO LOSING STEAM?

Over 60,000 commuters keep their fingers crossed as RMGL takes on HSVP over operations of the Gurugram metro project in the Punjab and Haryana High Court tomorrow

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Sachin Sharma, 43, regularly commutes to his workplace at Cyber City in the Rapid Metro. He has been boarding the train at Sector 54 Chowk metro station and alighting at IndusInd Bank Cyber City as a daily routine for the past one year. But he is a worried man now with uncertainty looming large over the continuity of the network.

For a city with an abysmal record on public transport, the news of Rapid Metro network struggling financially has come as rude shock for the residents. Around 60,000 people commute daily in Rapid Metro, India's first fully privately financed metro system that also acts as a feeder to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) network, connecting at the Sikanderpur metro station on the Yellow Line.

On shaky ground

Not able to meet its targeted ridership of one lakh – for the first and second phases put together – the almost 12-km-long metro network has been on shaky ground financially since it began its commercial operations on November 14, 2013. The first signs of trouble appeared last year when Rapid Metro-Rail Gurgaon Limited (RMGL) accused the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), formerly Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), of material breaches and defaults on the concession contract and asked the Haryana government to fix them within 90 days.

In an agreement reached between the RMGL and HSVP (then HUDA) on December 9, 2009, the company was entitled to participate in property development and advertisement at project site to generate revenue in addition to the fare. As per the contract, the concessionaire has the rights to display visual advertisements inside the rolling stock, the stations or along the route. The company was also allowed to utilize the land over, under and within the stations for property development and commercial exploitation during the concession period, subject to a limit of 250 square metre per station.

Non-fare revenue

Passenger fare contributes only 30%-40% to the total revenue of a metro project, depending upon which stage it is in; the rest is the non-fare revenue generated through advertisements and property rights. It is these rights that are the bone of contention between the two partners, with the RMGL accusing the HSVP of not allowing them in full, as per the contract.

CITY MATTERS

Sources privy to the dispute between the two told *The Hindu* that the company also accused HSVP of failing to carry out the development work along the metro corridor as per the Master Plan-2031 and not putting in place a sound feeder bus mechanism, hitting the ridership and causing loss of fare revenue.

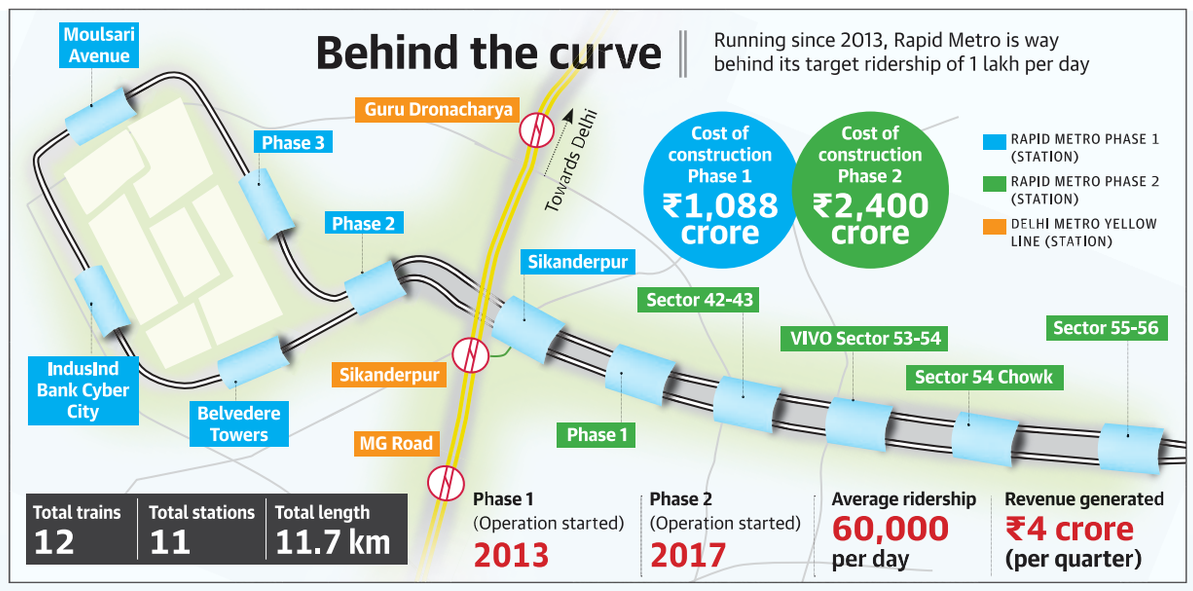
The HSVP has rubbished the charges saying the company is levelling false allegations as it is looking for an easy way out of the financial mess it is in because of its own reasons. It has also accused the RMGL of failing to meet its obligations on ridership.

'Poor management'

Industry experts partially blame the financial troubles of the Rapid Metro on the poor management of the project and bad marketing strategies. The fact that the first Managing Director of RMGL, Sanjiv Rai, was denied an extension and was replaced by Rajiv Banga was enough hint at his "non-satisfactory performance". It was in sharp contrast to four extensions to 'Metro Man' E. Sreedharan before he retired in 2011, and four-year extension to DMRC MD Mangu Singh, said experts.

On the marketing front too, while the RMGL seemed to be wasting its efforts on wrong choices such as running birthday trains to earn revenue, it failed to attract the larger workforce in the Cyber City to use the network. Experts said that tie-ups with companies operating in the Cyber City and lucrative offers to their employees could have helped the RMGL achieve its targetted ridership, especially when the corridor was connected to the DMRC's Yellow Line.

Extending the RMGL network along the Golf Course Road, the most elite address in the Millennium City, especially when the stretch was being widened to 16-lane highway, for its Phase-II too proved to be an unwise decision. Instead, connecting the Udyog Vihar Industrial Area, housing a large number of garment units and other companies, with the network and extending it further to the Maruti Suzuki plant on Old Delhi-Gurugram Road and bus stand could have added far more numbers to the ridership. In the future, the extension towards Udyog Vihar could also act as a possible link between the DMRC's Yellow and Blue Lines, further augmenting the ridership.



With a view to augment its revenue, the RMGL had taken an initiative called "Birthday Express" wherein a three-bogey train could be booked for one-and-a-half-hours to celebrate birthdays on-board. The train would take rounds on the loop while the birthday party is being held inside.

Financial troubles

The financial troubles of IL&FS, the company that constructed the Rapid Metro, in mid-2018 and the Union government moving an application before the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai, seeking suspension of its board of directors on the grounds of massive mismanagement of public funds proved to be the last nail in the coffin of the RMGL.

The RMGL was among the 38 domestic group entities of IL&FS classified as "Red Entity" by the Union government, saying that it could not meet its payment obligations towards even senior secured financial creditors.

The HSVP has said that there is a need for due diligence on the financial activities of the Rapid Metro. The authority officials maintain that nobody knows who the Rapid Metro management had borrowed money from and where they spent it and what fraudulent contracts they signed.

"When a private party comes to develop an infrastructure within the city limits it has to face many challenges and the support of the government is the first thing which is solicited. When a project like this fails for whatsoever reasons, it demotivates private players, investors and even the government. The need of the hour is to get all the associated parties on a common platform so that they are able to play their respective roles and ensure that the project runs smoothly," said Sarvesh Tiwari, an infrastructure expert who was earlier associated with the Rapid Metro project.

While the two parties battle it out legally in the Punjab and Haryana High Court – the matter is scheduled for hearing on September 17 – the commuters, the most important stakeholder in the matter, keep their fingers crossed for a favourable outcome.

Missing transport broker found murdered

Two held; accused eliminated him as they didn't want to return borrowed money

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A transport broker, who was reported missing, was found killed in a drain in Narela's Alipur on Sunday. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the victim, Manish (30), a resident of Narela Sector B2, was a transport broker in Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar. The accused have been identified as Atul (20) and Shivam (21). Atul used to stay with Manish and his wife Sapna, the police said.

Mr. Sharma said that Sapna approached the police on Friday and told them that her husband has been missing. The next day, she came again and raised suspicion over Atul. She said that Manish had left home with Atul and he hasn't been able to give a satisfactory reply about Manish's absence.

The accused in police custody. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When the police started searching for Manish, Atul was found absconding. But with the help of his other friends, he was traced and on his instance, the second accused Shivam was also arrested, Mr. Sharma said.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that Atul had lent money from Manish and had also asked Shivam to get more. There were issues between Manish and Atul over money matters due to which Atul decided to rope in Shivam, the police said, adding that they are all known to each other and do the same business.

The police said that on September 11, around 11 p.m., Manish and Atul left for work on Manish's bike after which Atul messaged Shivam that they had left and asked him to come to Swaroop Nagar. Upon reaching, the accused hit Manish with an iron pipe and then burnt his bike to destroy evidence. The accused then took him to Alipur in an unconscious state on their bike, tied both his hands and feet and dumped him in a drain. After that Atul returned home and told Sapna that Manish had gone to his home town in U.P., the police said.

Mr. Sharma said that a case under relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further investigation is under way.

Infant found dead at NSUT campus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An eight-month-old boy was found dead on the campus of Netaji Subhash University of Technology (NSUT) in Dwarka on Friday morning. Parents of the infant allegedly told the police that he had fallen from a height.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that the victim, Anand, is the son of Lakhan, who works with his wife at the campus as labourers.

The police said that a PCR call was received around 11.30 p.m. from a private hospital regarding an infant with severe head injury being brought dead to the hospital. "The hospital authorities informed us that the mother of the victim had told them that the boy had fallen from a height," the officer said.

When the police reached the spot, the boy's mother allegedly told them that she was working near the NSUT canteen and her seven-year-old son was playing with the infant around 9.40 a.m. The child is suspected to have fallen while the two were playing, she allegedly said.

The mother told the police that she rushed the child to the hospital but was declared brought dead.

Statements of the parents and other relatives were recorded and a post-mortem was conducted after which the body was handed over to them, the police said.

Parents deny rumour

Meanwhile, rumours of the child being hit by a car driven by a staffer started doing the rounds.

Mr. Alphonse said that they didn't receive any complaint. The officer said that after they got to know about the alleged rumours, the investigating officer met the child's parents again but they denied it.

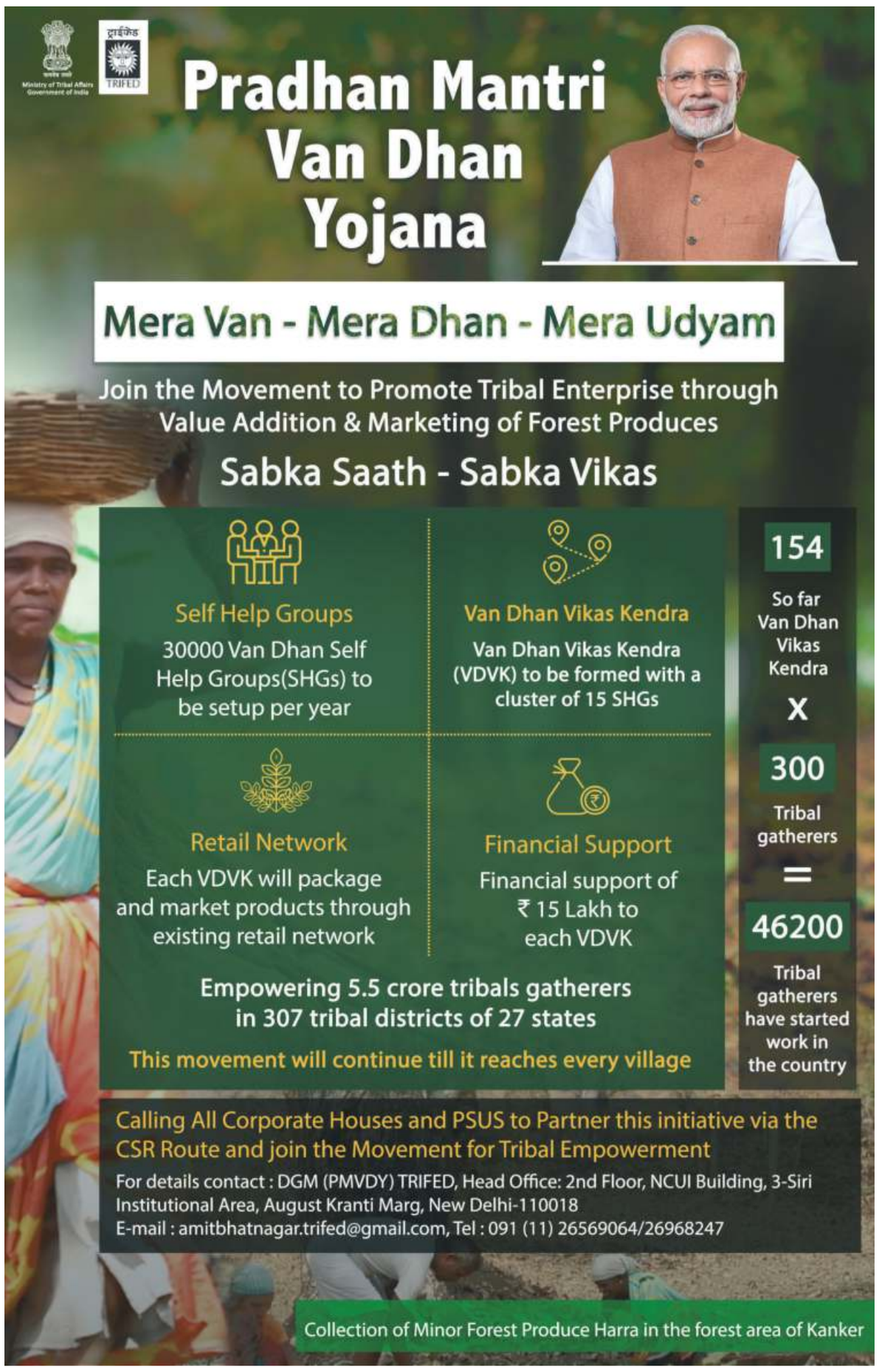
"The post-mortem report is awaited and necessary legal action will be taken after getting the results," the DCP said.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Prabhjot Baruah, wife of Sanjiv and mother of Kabir and Kartik, in New Delhi on September 14. Shanti Path and Antim Ardas will be held on Tuesday, September 17, from 4 pm to 5 pm, at Pahadiwala Gurdwara in Greater Kailash-I.

Sharda Baruah
Sanjiv Baruah
Rajeev Baruah
Amit Baruah
Ritu Baruah
Minu Jain

Kabir Baruah
Kartik Baruah
Rishika Baruah
Rudra Bhanu Solanki
Anushka Baruah
Antara Baruah



Past & present: all for the future

Soon, Chandni Chowk, the oldest and busiest market in Delhi, will become encroachment-free, clean and green. The redevelopment project, first launched in 2004, is nearing completion and is expected to meet the March 2020 deadline. Work is being carried out keeping in mind the heritage status of the area

Before and now: (Above) Scene before redevelopment work at Chandni Chowk; construction work being carried out on various stretches of roads in the area. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Manning the booths take a toll on women operators

Kherki Daula toll plaza officials claim cases of violence have reduced by 30%-40% after hiring women staff, but the latter claim abuses are daily work hazards

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Abuses, threats, and assaults are almost daily work hazards for Sangeeta*, a 20-year-old toll collector at Kherki Daula toll plaza on Delhi-Gurugram Expressway. She is among the 10 women that comprised the first batch of female toll collectors hired through Eagle Hunter Solutions Limited in Uttar Pradesh and deployed at the toll plaza in April 2017.

Among other things, the move to deploy women toll collectors at Kherki Daula toll plaza – arguably one of the most notorious across India because of frequent conflicts between motorists and toll collectors – was aimed at bringing down the cases of violence.

Women toll collectors at Kherki Daula toll plaza on Delhi-Gurugram Expressway. ▪MANOJ KUMAR

VIOLENCE AND IMPERSONATION CASES AT KHERKI DAULA TOLL PLAZA

YEAR	FIRs	COMPLAINTS
2015	16	203
2016	7	185
2017	8	166
2018	4	121
2019 (Till Sept. 12)	5	60

TOTAL COMPLAINTS 735

TOTAL FIRs 40

SOURCE: MILLENNIUM CITY EXPRESSWAYS PRIVATE LIMITED

A steady decrease

Millennium City Expressways Private Limited toll operation manager Mohammad Sohrab Khan told *The Hindu* that the steady decrease in the number of misbehaviour cases over the past two years suggested that the move had partially paid-off.

He said there was a 30%-40% fall in the incidents of conflicts mostly because the women toll collectors, unlike their male counterparts, were less aggressive and polite in their dealings with the toll users. Also, the company's retention rate for these women employees was higher than the men. He, however, claimed that the incidents of misbehaviour were still relatively very high and a total of 60 complaintshad already been reported this year so far.

The number of women employees, a majority of them toll collectors, has increased to double over the past two years. As of now, there are 40 women employees at the Kherki Daula toll plaza, including two deployed in the control room and one for audit.

"Since the staff in the control room and the audit need to interact with the toll collectors, a need was felt for women staff there as well. The control room staff are in constant touch with the toll collectors deployed at the lanes and are the first point of contact in case of any emergency," said Mr. Khan.

Abuses vs perks

Working as a toll collector for almost a year now, Bhawna* from Uttar Pradesh's Agra said sense of financial independence, the flexible and short duty hours, support from the staff in case of an emergency and perks, such as free accommodation, were the reasons why most of the women toll collectors continued to work despite the cases of scuffle and the constant fear of being assaulted. Most of the women toll collectors maintained that their families did not know about the hassles of working at the toll plaza, else they would not have allowed them.

In recent cases, a 40-year-old gym owner, Manjeet from Shikopur village, had threatened to rape and kill a woman toll collector in June this year when she asked him for the documents to allow free passage.

Manjeet, later arrested, was the co-accused in a 2011 murder case wherein his friend Vijay Veer had shot dead a toll collector, Umesh Kumar Pandey, at Kheri Daula over payment of toll charges. In yet another incident of misbehaviour over refusal to pay the toll charges, a 26-year-old woman collector was allegedly slapped and abused by a villager this past month. The accused, Rahul, later arrested was also the resident of Shikohpur village.

Most of the cases of violence pertain to the residents of 31 villages in and around Kherki Daula toll plaza that have been exempted from the toll payment on account of their land having been acquired for the construction of the highway. Besides, there is a sizeable number of cases of impersonation every year wherein motorists with fake IDs seek free passage and resort to violent behaviour. Besides the deployment of female staff, the toll authorities, in a bid to reduce the cases of the altercation, have distributed exempt tags to 7,000 villagers to avoid their interaction with the toll collectors. Even the commercial vehicles registered in these villages have been exempted. The local bus operators have also been given Fastags with monthly passes offering huge discounts.

Mr. Khan claimed that impersonation was a huge menace with people showing fake IDs of police personnel and army men and fake registration certificates to seek free passage. "We have so far seized 500 fake registration certificates and 400 fake IDs this year. Every year, the number comes around 1,000," said Mr. Khan.

Though only a couple of cases of violence were reported at Sarai toll plaza during Mr. Khan's stint there as manager for almost four years, he said a case of violence was reported every 10-15 days on an average at Kherki Daula.

He attributed it to the villagers in Gurugram being financially well-off due to exorbitant cost of land and having a steady income through rent.

Political clout

Besides, the locals wielded political clout and the police were reluctant to take action against them, claimed Mr. Khan.

"Even before the matter reaches the police, the accused uses their political connection to ensure that a case is not registered. The fact that police have not registered a case in even 5% of the complaints is enough evidence," he said. Gurugram Police spokesperson Subhash Boken said an FIR was registered in case any cognisable offence is made out in a complaint after preliminary investigation. He rejected the charge that the police act under political influence.

Toll companies across the country have been experimenting with hiring women as the collectors over the past few years and the response has been satisfactory. Now women toll collectors are a common sight. Mr. Khan said the toll companies were going to continue with it despite the hiccups.

**Names of all women toll collectors have been changed to protect their identities.*

ATM cut open, thieves flee with ₹3.5 lakh

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A few men allegedly fled with over ₹3.5 lakh after cutting open an ATM machine in south Delhi's Maidan Garhi in the small hours of Sunday, the police said.

An officer said a PCR call was received at 7 a.m. informing them of an ATM cash theft in Asola Market. On reaching the spot, the police found that the machine was cut open and there was no cash.

"Offenders cut the machine using gas cutters and also sprayed black paint on the camera before entering. They disconnected the alarm system as well. The exact amount stolen is yet to be ascertained," the officer said.

No guard was present at that time which suggests that the accused had conducted a recce before committing the crime. A case under Section 381 (theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and efforts are on to obtain CCTV footage from the bank.

"It has been revealed that there were more than two people. Involvement of an insider has not been ruled out," the officer added.

'Eliminate confusion over ban on single-use plastic'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) appealed to Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to "eliminate confusion" caused over the ban on single-use plastic, the group said on Sunday.

In the absence of guidelines, there is a lack of clarity over the category of items which fall under "single-use plastic", on whether plastic above 50 microns is permitted or not and on what alternatives could be promoted, the group said.

It also added that the MNCs should be directed to stop using packaging material, which involved single-use plastic.

Man arrested for shooting at woman in Narela

Accused has six criminal cases registered against him; loaded pistol recovered

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after a woman was shot at when she intervened in a fight between a couple in outer north Delhi's Narela, the accused has been arrested, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said Javed, a bad character of Narela, has six cases registered against him. He was nabbed from Smriti Van and a loaded pistol was recovered from his possession.

Raids conducted

"Many teams conducted raids at his suspected hideouts in Laxmi Nagar, Jahangirpuri, Swaroop Nagar and Safiabad," Mr. Sharma said.

On Friday night, Rachna was shot at when she intervened in a fight between Javed and his wife.

The police said Javed had an argument with his wife on Friday morning after which he dropped her to her parental house in Narela's sector B2 where Rachna lives on the first floor.

Around 9.30 p.m., Javed returned and forced his wife to come with him. When she and her family members refused, an altercation broke out and Rachna intervened. Javed took out his pistol and fired; the bullet hit Rachna's abdomen after which she was rushed to a hospital where she is undergoing treatment, the police added.

HC restrains *Dream Girl* from exploiting Marathi song

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has in an interim order restrained the makers of recently released Hindi movie *Dream Girl* from using a Marathi film song *Var Dhagala Lagli Kal*.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw gave the order on a petition filed by Saregam India Limited seeking direction to restrain Balaji Motion Pictures, Zee Entertainment and ALT Digital India Media from exploiting the song. Saregama India sought to restrain the makers of the Hindi movie from exploiting/using its copyrighted works i.e. the sound recording and others works in *Var Dhagala Lagli Kal* from a Marathi film in the song *Dhagala Lagli* in *Dream Girl*.

DELHI Timings

MONDAY, SEPT. 16			
RISE	06:06	SET	18:25
RISE	19:55	SET	07:42
TUESDAY, SEPT. 17			
RISE	06:07	SET	18:24
RISE	20:26	SET	08:34
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18			
RISE	06:07	SET	18:23
RISE	21:00	SET	09:28

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	27
Safdarjang	35	27
Palam	34	27

Delhi Palam Today
33°C A hazy and humid morning with partly cloudy sky is likely. Short spell of light rain is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C Fall in day temperature is likely. Moderate spells of rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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SIT quizzes law student's friends, college staff

Team examines principals of colleges located on the campus of Chinmayanand's ashram in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the alleged rape of a law student by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, on Sunday examined three male friends of the victim, besides some employees of her college.

The victim's friends who were examined, included the one who was with her when she was located in Rajasthan after having gone missing in August. He and the two others were also present inside the car in which the girl had made her video recording, narrating her ordeal.

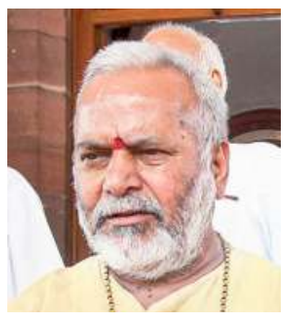
The team called them to the Police Lines here and recorded their statements, official sources said.

The SIT also examined the principals of the girl's alma mater – a law college and a postgraduate college – both located on the campus of Mumukshu Ashram of the former Union Minister.

Recording statements

The SIT also examined two other college employees, who had been summoned on Saturday but had failed to turn up for recording their statements.

The SIT, headed by Inspector General Naveen Arora, was set up by the Uttar Pradesh government on September 3 on a Supreme Court directive after the girl went missing on August 24 after levelling allegations that the BJP leader had raped and physically exploited her for one year. The Shahjahanpur police had on August 27 lodged an FIR against Mr. Chinmayanand.


Swami Chinmayanand

Video leak a conspiracy, says victim's father

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR

The father of the rape victim on Sunday termed the leakage of the video footage given to the special investigation team by his daughter, a "conspiracy" and said he would request the Supreme Court to order a probe into the matter.

"From where have the screenshots and videos come on the social media? The screenshots have been posted even on various social media platforms. These were given to the SIT by my daughter. This is a conspiracy," he said. The law student had on Saturday given a pen drive containing 43 videos to the SIT to support her allegations after the sleuths asked her to submit evidence against the former Union Minister.

BHU students protest over reinstatement of professor

'He began taking classes a few days ago'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University students staged an overnight protest outside the campus gate after a professor, accused of sexual harassment, was reinstated and allowed to take classes. The students have been protesting since Saturday evening, demanding that the professor be punished.

Professor S.K. Chaubey of the Zoology Department was suspended in 2018 after charges levelled by a few students. In June, the BHU executive council revoked the suspension of Mr. Chaubey. However, it censured and restricted him for taking academic classes.

Mr. Chaubey returned to taking classes a few days ago, triggering protests, a student said.

Students during the protest in Varanasi on Sunday. • ANI

INTERVIEW | BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

'In Haryana, it's Congress's achievements of 10 years vs BJP's failures'

BJP leadership has failed to fulfil promises; parties like INLD, JJP and AAP are of no political consequence in State: former CM

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, recently appointed chairperson of the Congress's election management committee, speaks to **Ashok Kumar** about the party's strategy for the Assembly elections next month, Article 370 and central leadership crisis. Excerpts:

How do you assess the current political situation in Haryana?

■ There will be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress in the upcoming Assembly elections. The voters will weigh the achievements of our government against the failures of the present government. Parties like the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party are of no political consequence. The INLD, once the main Opposition party, always acted as the B-team of the ruling BJP. After the split in the INLD and JJP's creation, I had predicted that they would be of no political consequence by the time of the Assembly polls.

Congress's narrative of unemployment, farmers distress, demonetisation and poor implementation of GST was rejected by the voters in the Lok Sabha election. What will be your party's narrative for the Vidhan Sabha elections.

■ The issues in the Lok Sabha poll were different; they would be different now. The Haryana government has failed miserably on all fronts. It is the most corrupt government. People are now talking about the achievements and the performance of the previous Congress government's 10-year rule. The BJP made 154 promises in its manifesto, but did not fulfil even one.

In 2005, the Congress had more than 60 MLAs. But the party's strength reduced to 40-odd after your first stint as Chief Minister and further to 15 after your second stint. Congress's graph has actually gone down under your leadership.

■ When I was made the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee president in 1998, there were only half-a-dozen party MLAs. In 2005, we won more than 60 Assembly seats. It will be the same this time around.

You face corruption charges in Manesar land deals and are chargesheeted in the Associated Journal Limited case. Do you think it will harm your party's electoral prospects?

■ I have full faith in the judiciary. It is a political vendetta. The truth will prevail. I have done nothing wrong. In AJL case, I am not charged with accepting any money in return for alloting a plot. I acted within my powers. People understand everything. They know the history of my family.

At the Rohtak rally you said that the Congress is not the same party any more, it has lost its way. In what context did you say so?

■ It is not the same Congress which it used to be at the time of Mahatma Gandhi. The situation today is different. I said in the context of Article 370. Some of our colleagues could not understand the matter.

Do you mean that the Congress should have supported the amendment to Article 370?

■ Initially there was confusion among the Congress Working Committee members on the matter, but it has now been sorted out. The priority now should be to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

You supported the amendment to Article 370. What is the stand of the State Congress?

■ One out of every 10 soldiers in the Army is from Haryana. A large number of soldiers killed in Jammu and Kashmir are from Haryana. It has become a law now. The question of supporting or opposing it is now irrelevant.

The Congress faces a leadership crisis at the highest level. Do you think it is time for the party to think beyond Gandhi family?

■ There is no leadership crisis in the party. Sonia Gandhi is our leader. Everybody has faith in her leadership.

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PFC – INDIA'S LARGEST INFRA FINANCE COMPANY & LARGEST GOVERNMENT NBFC

Shri Rajeev Sharma
Chairman & Managing Director

Chairman's Speech at the
33rd AGM of Power Finance Corporation
held on 27th August, 2019

"28th March 2019 was a Red Letter Day in the history of PFC, when your Company acquired Government of India's 52.63% equity stake in REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), for a total consideration of ₹14,500 Crs. With this landmark deal, PFC is now a promoter and the holding company of REC Limited."

to ₹ 6,00,000 Crores
2X
Assets Up from ₹ 3,00,000 Crores

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 33rd Annual General Meeting of your Company. Financial Year 2018-19 was an eventful and a landmark year in the history of PFC. 28th March 2019 was a Red Letter Day in the history of PFC, when your Company acquired Government of India's 52.63% equity stake in REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), for a total consideration of ₹ 14,500 Crs. With this landmark deal, PFC is now a promoter and the holding company of REC Limited.

₹3,14,667 cr. 13% Loan Assets (Gross) ₹2,79,329 cr.

The acquisition is a significant move towards power sector consolidation and significant inorganic growth opportunity for PFC, which has resulted in creation of bigger entity on a consolidated basis, with combined annual revenues of more than ₹ 50,000 Crs, loan assets of ₹ 6 lakh Crs and profit of more than ₹ 12,500 Crs. The acquisition would enable increased efficiencies in lending processes and policies across both the institutions and would create public value by offering better loan products to the power sector. Further, the acquisition will help in diversification of assets of the group as well as better management of portfolio risk and would also help in resolution of stressed power sector assets of the group in a better and coordinated manner.

I am pleased to share that post the acquisition transaction, PFC's credit rating has been retained and your company has also kept the Capital Adequacy Ratio at comfortable levels to reassure shareholders, investors & credit rating agencies about the business growth going forward.

On the business front, the year also saw some significant landmarks for PFC on a standalone basis. We achieved our highest ever annual profit of about ₹ 7,000 Crs. Your Company has recorded its highest ever disbursements for three years in a row and with this year's loan disbursements crossing ₹ 67,600 Crs mark. The loan assets also crossed the ₹ 3 lakh milestone and saw a robust growth of 13% during the year.

On the borrowing front, the share of foreign currency borrowings in the overall borrowing increased to 10% on the back of fresh foreign currency mobilization of USD 1.5 billion during the year. In June 2019, PFC raised USD 1 billion under its MTN programme with 5 years and 10 year tenors, which was the first dual and largest USD bonds transaction for Government owned Indian NBFC and also the first 5 year issuance by PFC. Going forward, we expect the foreign currency borrowings to contribute to our portfolio to a greater extent. As indicated earlier, 54EC Capital Gain Tax bonds are an important source of funds for PFC owing to its low cost. I am happy to share that the mobilization under the capital gains tax bonds has witnessed a 2.7 time jump from the previous financial year. Due to the various efforts made by your Company on the borrowing front, the cost of funds has reduced significantly from 8.21% in FY 18 to 7.95% in FY19.

2x jump in 54EC Capital Gain Tax Bonds

A decisive majority for NDA 2.0 under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi would only add to India's political and economic muscle in the comity of nations. The Government's commitment to an 'all inclusive economic and socially harmonious' order would further the cause of spreading prosperity and a spirited campaign against poverty in line with United Nation's millennium development goals. Taking the economic growth story to rural India would be natural extension of the country's journey thus far.

With a healthy GDP of around 7% in the last five years, India's economic profile has never been better globally. Liberal policies adopted by the Central Government have only lent an edge to India as an attractive investment destination amongst emerging markets.

Shri Rajeev Sharma, CMD, PFC handing over RTGS advice of USD 1 Million towards Corporate Membership of International Solar Alliance (ISA) to Shri R.K.Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Power, New & RE at the First General Assembly of ISA in the presence of Minister of State for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France, H.E. Brune Poirson.

Stabilization and reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates across product categories seem to have enthused investors within and outside the country. Strong domestic consumption demand has provided a big fillip to industry, services, farm sector and exporters laying a firm foundation for long haul investments. Various government initiatives like 'Make In India' & 'Digital India' have given opportunities to foreign companies for setting up their facilities in India.

Maiden US $ 1 Billion Bond Issue

India's famed labour force is expected to touch 170 million by next year, turning the country into a powerhouse for human resources and key supplier of manpower internationally. Leveraging the demographic potential also seems to have begun in the right earnest with pan-India skills development campaign taken up by centre in partnership with State Governments, corporate world and other stakeholders.

India is firmly on its way to catapult into the big league. It's all set to become the third largest economy in 10 - 15 years backed by strong democracy and partnerships. India's GDP is expected to reach USD5 trillion in next few years and achieve upper-middle income status on the back of digitization, globalization, favorable demographics and reforms.

The growth of Indian economy has been supplemented by the power sector despite facing several challenges. Now every village has access to quality and affordable electricity while power to every family has become a near reality. Energy deficit has been reduced to almost zero and India emerges as net exporter of electricity to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. More than 1,07,000 MW Generation Capacity has been added between April 2014 and March 2019. These developments coupled with a huge capacity creation in renewable and new energy resources have provided a great business opportunity to your Company. Under Saubhagya, a flagship scheme of Government of India, almost 100% household electrification has been achieved. More than ₹ 34,000 Crore interest cost has been saved by DISCOMs under UDAY within two years. Providing electricity to all, round the clock, 365 days a year has become the next big challenge that's being tackled head on.

Cost of Funds 26bps 8.21% 7.95%

Various steps have been taken by Government of India to tackle the issue of stressed assets in Power Sector. Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI) was launched to provide coal to the stressed power projects. SHAKTI covers projects which have PPAs but do not have Fuel Supply Agreements in place and also those which do not have Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). The objective of this scheme is to eliminate the stress in generation utilities. Some of these stressed projects have already started to receive coal under the scheme. Also, a Pilot Scheme for mid-term PPA for stressed projects was launched by the Ministry of Power for which PFCCL, our subsidiary company is the Nodal Agency and PTC is the aggregator to purchase power for three years from commissioned projects with no PPA. Under the scheme, beneficiary states have signed PPAs for 1900 MW with eligible bidders at a tariff of ₹ 4.24 per unit. Now Phase II of the Pilot PPA scheme has been launched with PFCCL as the Nodal Agency and NHPC as the aggregator. Bids from 15 companies have been finalized with a tariff of ₹ 4.41 per unit. Ministry of Power has also issued significantly important guidelines with respect to timelines for approving the petitions for tariff increase due to change in law and also the directions mandating the power distribution licensees to open and maintain adequate Letter of Credit as a payment security mechanism under Power Purchase Agreements. These initiatives will help the projects to sell power on sustainable basis and resolve the stress going forward.

I am pleased to share that under these schemes some of the projects financed by PFC have received coal linkages and also mid-term PPAs, which will help in resolution of stress.

In order to encourage Renewable Generation, Ministry of Power extended the waiver of ISTS Transmission charges and losses for Solar & Wind based Projects upto March 2022. Further, in order to achieve the Renewable target of 1,75,000 MW of Renewable Capacity by 2022, MOP issued Long Term Growth trajectory Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for Solar as well as Non-Solar till the year 2022.

₹6,953 cr. 58% Profit After Tax ₹4,387 cr.

India's rank improved to 24 in 2018 from 137 in 2014 on World Bank's Ease of doing business - "Getting Electricity" Ranking. Several measures have been initiated to reform and strengthen the power sector as a whole including power generation, transmission and distribution. These also include achievements in capacity addition and also important reforms being undertaken for increasing energy efficiency and increasing accountability and transparency by launching Mobile applications like PRAAPTI, Ash Track etc.

Your Company's philosophy of Corporate Governance stems from its belief that the spirit of good governance lies in adherence to highest standards of transparency, accountability, ethical business practices, compliance of law in true letter and spirit, adequate disclosures, corporate fairness, social responsiveness and commitment to the organization to meet stakeholders aspirations and societal expectations.

Smt. Gouri Chaudhury, Independent Director, Shri Sitaram Pareek, Independent Director, Dr. A.K. Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Rajeev Sharma, CMD, Shri N.B. Gupta, Director (Finance) & Shri P.K. Singh, Director (Commercial) at the "Annual Investor Meet 2019" held in Mumbai

Your Company is a socially responsible corporate entity which is committed to improving the quality of life of the society at large by undertaking projects for Sustainable Development. PFC's focus on the CSR front has been on the projects for national as well as local importance. Some of the projects like skill development for economically and socially backward men and women, installation of solar street lights, provision for medical equipment etc. have a wide reaching impact on our society as a whole. Your company has disbursed ₹ 118 crore under the CSR activities in FY19.

I am extremely thankful to the shareholders, who have reposed faith in us. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/c) for Power & New and Renewable Energy and officials of the Ministry of Power for their continued support and guidance. I am also truly grateful to Board of Directors, Investors and Valued Clients for their support.

PFC conferred with "The Best Power Financing Company" of the year award by Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Power, New & RE. Shri Rajeev Sharma, CMD, Shri C. Gangopadhyay, former Director (Projects) & Shri P.K. Singh, Director (Commercial) receiving the award on the occasion of CBIP Day

Shri Rajeev Sharma, CMD, PFC, handing over the Intra Bank Fund Transfer Advice to Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary, Government of India, being the purchase consideration for acquisition of 103.94 Crore shares of Govt. of India shares in REC in presence of senior officials of MOP & PFC.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 27.08.2019

Rajeev Sharma
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No.: 00973413

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 August, 2019. For full text, please visit : www.pfcindia.com)

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Windfall for Odisha tribals if single-use plastic is banned

5 million in the State involved in plate-making from leaves

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

As the focus is likely to shift to alternative products from single-use plastic that India plans to ban, millions of people, especially tribals residing in Odisha's forest-rich regions, expect an upturn in their income.

Close to five million people in Odisha are currently involved in plate-making using both hand and machine stitching methods. They depend on two major leaves of forest species - sal and siali - for their earnings.

"Odisha's leaf plate and cup market is worth ₹1,500 crore. While 2.5 million people mostly tribals are sal leaf pluckers, 1.5 million are siali leaf pluckers. Around one million are connected with other leaves," said Chittaranjan Pani, a leading expert on non-timber forest product trade.

As soon as plastic products are banned, the focus will shift to degradable materials and leaf plates and cups are one of the obvious choices. In 22 of the 30 districts of Odisha, inhabitants of forest-fringe villages are traditionally involved in leaf-plate making.

In some districts, tribal women have already formed federations to get a better deal in the trade.

Women making plates from leaves in an Odisha village. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lawyers want exemption from wearing helmets

'Causes inconvenience while shuttling from one court to another'

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Balasore District Bar Association have sought exemption from wearing helmets for 12 hours daily, arguing that carrying helmet causes inconvenience to them while shuttling from one court to another.

The Association has passed a resolution on non-use of helmet by advocates during office hours. It demanded that lawyers should not be detained on the pretext of enforcement of the new Motor Vehicle Act. The Association also requested the superintendent of police to approve its demand.

"We face difficulties in keeping our helmets at safe places. We have taken an oath under the Advocates' Act to render legal services to people. If I am detained midway, I will surely fail to discharge my duty. So lawyers should not be forced to wear helmets during duty hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," said Niranjan Panda, Association president.

Hefty fines

Mr. Panda said the government had introduced hefty fine provisions without doing any consultation with people.

A delegation of bar association members would meet the district police chief to apprise him of the difficulties of wearing helmets during duty hours.

The Odisha government has given a three-month window during which the transport authorities have been asked not to go overboard in imposition of fines under the amended MV Act. During the first week of September, the new Act was enforced.

The State police have decided to conduct awareness drive to make people understand the importance of wearing helmets and using seat belts in cars.

Meanwhile, Balangir Regional Transport Office has imposed fine of ₹22,500 on a biker for multiple traffic rules violation. Sushant Kumar Meher, owner of the bike, was asked to pay a fine for rash driving, non-possession of valid driving licence, drunken driving and disobeying enforcement authority at Kantabanji.

Activists form forum for river protection

To take up awareness drive in Ganjam

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Activists of various organisations in Odisha's Ganjam district came together to form the 'Nadi Surakhya Manch' (River Protection Forum) on Sunday to save rivers from degradation.

The organisation took shape during a meeting convened by the Forum for Ganjam, Mahanadi Bachao Andolan and Aryabhatta Foundation in Berhampur. It was attended by representatives from different parts of the district as well as retired engineers of the irrigation department.

"Initially we have decided to take up an awareness drive among people living on the banks of the rivers regarding the degradation of riverbeds in the recent past due to human activities," said Sudhir Raut, convener of the Manch. A booklet describing scientific details about deterioration of the rivers in Ganjam district will be published.

Indiscriminate sand lifting, overgrowth of weeds on riverbeds and increasing shallowness of riverbeds along with rise in water pollution were major issues discussed during the meeting. The Rushikulya river, its tributaries and the Bahuda river crisscross Ganjam district.

According to retired engineer T. Ganesh, due to indiscriminate sand lifting, the remnant clay on riverbeds is providing scope for growth of various wild weeds. The rivers in Ganjam district do not have adequate perennial flow of water. Sand lifting and overgrowth of weeds is a major reason behind increase in flash flood situations, he said.

Convenor of the Mahanadi Bachao Andolan, Sudarshan Dash, advocated major plantations to be taken up at hills from where the rivers originate. The Rushikulya starts from Rushyamala hills in Kandhamal district while the Bahuda river begins from the Ramgiri region of Gajapati district. "Both these hilly regions have started to become tree-less because of human activity," said Mr. Raut.

The Manch has urged the government and the administration to be strict against illegal sand lifters, form small check dams on rivers to increase use of water as well as groundwater recharging, dredging on riverbeds at required points to streamline the flow at the middle rather than at sides that increases erosion.

Bees delay Kolkata-Agartala Air India flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

A Kolkata-Agartala Air India flight was delayed for around two hours on Sunday after a swarm of bees was noticed in front of the aircraft while it was taxiing towards the main runway here, an airline official said. The plane with 136 passengers and crew members on board the AI 743 flight was scheduled to depart at 9.40 a.m.

The bees were noticed by the pilots when the Airbus A319 was ready for the take-off. The pilots brought the aircraft to a standstill as further movement could have damaged the plane and harmed the passengers if the bees entered it through the engines, the AI spokesperson said.

Fire services personnel were called to tackle the problem. Before this incident, the flight had been delayed for some time due to a technical snag. The plane finally embarked for the Tripura capital at 12.45 p.m.

Five kg cannabis seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

A man was nabbed with 5 kg of suspected cannabis at the Guwahati railway station on Sunday, Government Railway Police (GRP) officials said.

The seizure was made during the checking of the stationary Rajdhani Express, they said.

The GRP personnel seized the suspected cannabis, worth around ₹40,000 in the grey market.

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P & SC No. 25024/2019
Between:
1. Miss Dia Nandini Kumar
Aged about 15 years,
D/o Late Mr. Tarun Kumar
and Late Mrs. Ritu Kumar
2. Master Dhruv Kumar,
Aged about 13 years,
S/o Late Mr. Tarun Kumar
and Late Mrs. Ritu Kumar
Both Represented by their Legal Guardian
Mrs. Rakhee Anand,
Aged about 48 years
W/o Mr. Deepan Anand
Residing at:
172/1, Plot No.5, Versova Layout,
Kagadaspura Main Road,
C.V.Raman Nagar,
Bengaluru 560 093 Petitioners
AND
NIL Respondents
SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT IN A NEWSPAPER (ORDER-V RULE 20 (a) OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE)
FORM OF NOTICE
WHEREAS, the Petitioner has filed P&SC 25024/2019 before the Hon'ble City Civil and Session Judge, At Bangalore (CCH-21) to procure the Letters of Administration and Succession Certificate for Miss Dia Nandini Kumar and Master Dhruv Kumar under due process of law to effectively manage the affairs and property of Miss Dia Nandini Kumar and Master Dhruv Kumar to the properties as described herein below and any objections to the same may be before the Hon'ble Court. All objections are called for before the Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader on 18.11.2019 at 11.00 am to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed.
Given under my hand and seal on this, 27th day of August of 2019
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
Luxury Dwelling unit no. 4-S-202, on the Second Floor, Gurjinder Vihar, Army Welfare Housing Organisation, at Plot no. 01, Pocket-P5, Builders Area Sector-Chi-I, in Greater Noida consisting of Four Bedroom, Four Toilets, Drawing, Dining room, One kitchen, and four Balconies and is a part of multi-storied building, at Plot No.01, Pocket-P5, Builders Area, in Greater Noida developed by Army Welfare Housing Organisation (the Society) having super area under the said unit 224.91 Sq. Mtrs., Covered/carpet Area is 169.42 Sq. Mtrs. and common area is 55.49 Sq. Mtrs. Along with Car Parking no. CPP-38 (12.45 Sq.45) and OCP-1135 (11.98 Sqm)
SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
Dwelling unit no. 2502, 25th Floor, Tower no.8, Known as "Lotus Panache" constructed upon Plot no. GH-05 in Sector 110, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP admeasuring 1063 Sq.ft. (98.75 Sq. mtrs.) comprising of one living room, one bedroom, one master bedroom, one kitchen (with attached utility area), two toilets, two Balconies, together with proportionate undivided impartible interest in land.
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I. Pension Account bearing number 00000030231520773 and
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Deepak Chander, R/O Flat # 14B, Dhawalgiri Apartment (B-12a), Sector-34, Noida, shall henceforth be known as Deepak Maithani.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. K SUNDARAM (69), Retired Circulation Officer, The Hindu, Chennai, passed away on 15-09-2019. Address: F2, First Floor, Divyadarshini Apartments, Govindasamy Street, Pazhavanthangal, Chennai 600114. Contact : 9884216728.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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Mrs. Sarala Ramachandran
W/o. Late Dr (Prof) N.Ramachandran
You are remembered every moment in my life. Time flies away so soon, but not a single day passes without you in my thoughts.
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Audit recommends inquiry into expressway trauma care centre

Note questions its location, land deal, non-involvement of experts in construction

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Days after Health Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated a trauma care centre on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, it has emerged that an internal audit had raised serious questions over the centre's location and had even recommended an investigation into the deal to construct it on private land. The centre will provide medical aid to the injured within the golden hour.

The Hindu is in possession of the audit enquiry note addressed to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), which questioned an agreement of the land, dated November 16, 2012.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv Sena government, which has been digging out old cases against the previous government of the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has maintained silence over the note and according to sources, has not even replied to the audit enquiry. Mr. Shinde, who also handles the MSRDC portfolio, is from the Sena. The minister did not reply to phone calls.

Controversial decision: Health Minister Eknath Shinde at the inauguration of the trauma care centre at the Mumbai-Pune Expressway on September 8. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jaidatta Kshirsagar, former NCP leader and MSRDC minister in 2012, has now joined the Sena and is the minister for Employment Guarantee and Horticulture.

"The trauma care centre was constructed without any involvement of experts in the field and therefore, it is not matching with the requirements of a level-IV trauma care centre," the audit note said.

The MSRDC had entered into an agreement in 2012 with Woodstock Helicopter Pvt. Ltd. for leasing the land at Ozarde village, Maval taluk , Pune, for providing the trauma care centre along the expressway.

"The actual beneficiary of the deal is Woodstock, in which they ensured right of way to and permission for commercial exploitation of their huge land parcel acquired/to be acquired with restriction of access to all other land owners in the vicinity, which would not have been possible but for this agreement," the note said. It pointed out that the MSRDC has a sufficient land bank along the expressway, which could have been developed for a trauma centre of the required level.

"The company (MSRDC) may initiate a probe into the deal and find out the reasons for entering into such an agreement without due diligence/vetting, and responsibility may be fixed for negligence, if any," it said, while seeking a reply from the MSRDC.

Chandrakant Pulkundwar, joint managing director of the MSRDC, told *The Hindu*, "The MSRDC after following due procedure has finally put the trauma care unit to best possible use for saving lives of accident victims on the expressway."

Sharad Pawar terms turncoats cowards

NCP chief criticises CM for neglecting western Maharashtra at the time of floods

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Voters of Maharashtra will take care of cowards who quit the party, said Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday. He was addressing a rally in Navi Mumbai, days after the NCP's strongman in the region, Ganesh Naik, and party MP from Satara, Udayanraje Bhosale, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Mr. Pawar said, "The rulers of today are busy only in targeting the Opposition, which means they have nothing to offer. We need to be vigilant, but do not bother if someone leaves. This State belongs to people with self-respect. People here don't compromise with that. When people in Maharashtra will come out to vote, they will take care of those cowards who accepted humiliation from Delhi."

Readying for battle: NCP president Sharad Pawar looking at a sword presented to him during a rally in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. ▪YOGESH MHATRE

Direct message

Mr. Pawar's attack is seen as a direct message to Mr. Bhosale who happens to be the descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He went to Delhi on Saturday to meet BJP president Amit Shah and join the BJP.

Commenting on Mr. Naik's departure, the NCP chief said common people express their anger when the time comes. "I need not comment about Navi Mumbai. People are capable. Manda Mhatre won because of Mr. Naik's fault. We thought that he would correct his mistakes, but still he has chosen to go on the wrong path."

Taunting his former colleagues who have been claiming that they switched the party for the sake of development of their respective regions and therefore wanted to be with the ruling side, Mr. Pawar said in his 52 years of legislative career, he has been in Opposition for 27 years. "But I never faced a single problem while working. Rather I could work more when in Opposition."

Agriculture

He said this is not the time to sit close to rulers who brought the worse condition for agriculture. "This is the time to fight those who failed to create jobs."

Slamming Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for neglecting western Maharashtra at the time of floods, Mr. Pawar said the CM was busy organising Mahajanadesh Yatra. "He went there after floods for a few hours, but later did not even bother to check."

NCP's attitude ahead of polls like sour grapes, says Fadnavis

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Taking potshots at the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) ahead of the Assembly elections, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the NCP's attitude has become like 'sour grapes'.

"As long as [former Satara NCP MP] Udayanraje Bhosale was with them, they put him forward and sought votes in his name... They were even eager that he lead the NCP's Shiv Swaraj Yatra. But now that he has joined us, the NCP is rallying against him," he said.

The CM was speaking to reporters during the third phase of the Mahajanadesh Yatra. Mr. Fadnavis later addressed rallies in Wai and Satara city. Stating that the BJP and the Sena had only taken those opposition leaders to win maximum number of Assembly seats, Mr. Fadnavis predicted an "unprecedented victory" for the saffron alliance.

Mr. Bhosale, a direct descendant of Maratha warrior king Shivaji, had joined the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, dealing a blow to the NCP in Satara district, considered as one of the party's strongholds in western Maharashtra. The BJP has successfully poached both warring royals - Mr. Bhosale and sitting Satara MLA Shivendraraje Bhosale - from the NCP.

Rallyng for support: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Prakash Javedekar during the Mahajanadesh Yatra at Sinhagad near Pune on Sunday. ▪MANDAR TANNU

Meanwhile, Mr. Fadnavis denied accusations of an alleged lathi charge on NCP supporters during the BJP's Yatra in Bhigwan (which forms part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency) on Saturday.

Mr. Fadnavis's address was briefly interrupted by NCP demonstrators when the CM criticised the Pawar clan.

"There were barely seven NCP demonstrators who were trying to disturb my address ...they dispersed as soon as the police arrived. Is there an Article 370 in place in Baramati, which mandates that no other party other than Mr. Pawar's can hold rallies and public meetings there?" Mr. Fadnavis asked.

He further said the seat-sharing arrangement between the BJP and the Shiv Sena will be announced soon, and denied any knowledge of the Sena surveying all 288 Assembly seats with a view to contest independently in the event an alliance is not forged. "I have no such information. We will decide soon on the seat-sharing arrangement of our 'Mahayuti'."

The CM claimed in the last five years, the State had attracted the maximum industrial investment and maximum foreign direct investment (FDI), and said 25% of the total employment generated in the country was generated in Maharashtra.

"The MoU realisation rate in the State is 45% as opposed to the country's figure of 35%. Ask the NCP which projects it had completed. Had it done so, it wouldn't be in the political wilderness today," Mr. Fadnavis said, stating that several of the projects launched by the BJP will come to fruition between 2020 and 2023.

22 MLAs switch parties since 2014 elections; NCP worst-hit

Shifting loyalties

Congress MLA in 2014	New party	Constituency
Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil	BJP	Shirdi
Abdul Sattar	Shiv Sena	Sillod
Nirmala Gavit	Shiv Sena	Igatpuri (ST)
Kalidas Kolambkar	BJP	Vadala
Bhausaheb Kamble	Shiv Sena	Shrirampur (SC)
Jaykumar Gore	BJP	Maan
Nitesh Rane	MSP	Kankavali
NCP MLA in 2014	**New party**	**Constituency**
Sandip Naik	BJP	Airoli
Pandurang Varora	Shiv Sena	Shahapur (ST)
Avdhoot Tatkare	Shiv Sena	Shrivardhan
Vaubhav Pichad	BJP	Akole (ST)
Jaydutt Kshirsagar	Shiv Sena	Beed
Rana Jagjitsinh Patil	BJP	Osmanabad
Dilip Sopal	Shiv Sena	Barshi
Bhaskar Jadhav	Shiv Sena	Guhagar
Others		
Vilas Tare (Bahujan Vikas Aghadi)	Shiv Sena	Boisar (ST)
Shrad Sonawane (Maharashtra Navnirman Sena)	Shiv Sena	Junnar

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The existing Assembly has witnessed 22 MLAs switching their political parties from which they had won the elections in 2014. Of them, 17 are sitting MLAs from the Opposition, who joined either the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or Shiv Sena. The defection started with former Leader of Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil joining the BJP before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Only two legislators – one each from the BJP and Sena – have shifted to the Opposition. Katol's former BJP MLA Ashish Deshmukh and Suresh Dhanorkar, former Sena MLA from Varora in Chandrapur, joined the Congress before the general elections. Mr. Dhanorkar is now the lone Congress MP from Maharashtra.

BJP's Anil Gote from Dhule has rebelled against the party while Sena's Harshvardhan Jadhav from Aurangabad's Kannad Assembly seat contested the Lok Sabha elections against his party candidate. Sena's Pratap Chikhlikar is now BJP's MP from Nanded.

Among the opposition MLAs who switched the sides, the NCP has suffered the most with eight of its MLAs deserting the party.

Of them, five joined the Sena and rest the BJP. Seven Congress MLAs have quit the party, of whom three joined the Sena and BJP respectively. The lone Congress MLA, Nitesh Rane, is part of the Maharashtra Swabhiman Party, founded by his father Narayan Rane, which is now part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Vilas Tare of the Bahujan Vikas Aghadi and Sharad Sonawane of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena have joined the Sena.

"Those who are afraid, those who cannot live without power, and those who have something to hide are joining the ruling alliance. We wish them well. But after the 2019 Assembly polls, they will find themselves either defeated or in the Opposition once again. The people will give them a fitting reply," NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said.

Social activist Anjali Damania said in olden days, people used to take sides depending on the ideology with which they agree.

"Now the only ideology that runs our country is power. The induction of people like Kripashanker Singh, Ganesh Naik and Narayan Rane, who have very serious charges of corruption against them, along with a long list of Congress and NCP leaders, clearly shows that the BJP is not at all interested in fighting corruption. Its only agenda is to destroy the Opposition, and this is very dangerous for democracy," she said.

Frontline warriors

First-hand experience: Warships of the Western Naval Command, *INS Beas* and *INS Mumbai*, were open for public view as part of the Navy Week celebrations at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Sunday. Ships will be open once again to schoolchildren on September 21 and the general public the next day. ▪EMMANUAL YOGINI

Pune comes out in its Sunday best for the races

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

Pune kept its date with the racing season, and a large number of spectators turned out in their Sunday best to witness the S.A. Poonawalla Million championship.

The event is a prestigious one for juveniles, or three-year-old horses, during the Pune racing season. A small but select field of six runners lined up to face the starter.

Many of the top three-year-old horses have claimed this race *en route* to successful careers, and this year's renewal promised to be the same.

Sultan Suleiman, who had stylishly won the Southern Command Gold Trophy a fortnight ago, was kept in second place till the bend.

He then stormed ahead and staved off every challenge from Trouvaille to win the race in an exciting finish.

Zavaray S. Poonawalla, newly appointed chairman of RWITC, at a press conference in Pune on Sunday. ▪JIGNESH MISTRY

Sultan Suleiman made his trainer Altaf Hussain proud by winning this race, as Mr. Hussain had won the inaugural edition of this event in 1996.

Among the 14 entries for the free Contest of Skill, Xavier Anthony, a small-time punter from the first enclosure, won the first prize. He drove home a Maruti Alto.

Restored Jayakar Bungalow comes back to life on NFAI premises

Building to house digital film library and personalised viewing spaces

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The newly-rehabilitated, iconic heritage structure Jayakar Bungalow, was inaugurated on Sunday by Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar on the premises of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI).

The bungalow, built in the Tudor architectural style and classified as a Grade I heritage structure, was built in the 1940s by eminent jurist and educationist Dr. M. R. Jayakar, the first vice-chancellor of Pune University.

"Jayakar Bungalow has a special place in Pune's art and architecture and following restoration, is being put to use for the benefit of film researchers," Mr. Javadekar said.

The restored building will house a digital film library where researchers can access the NFAI's rich database. There will also be personalised viewing spaces.

Iconic: The bungalow was built in 1940s. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The minister released a booklet titled, *Parampara: An ode to Jayakar Bungalow*, which chronicles the history of the building along with the story of its restoration. He also unveiled a mobile application for booking slots for viewing films at the NFAI.

"A special feature of the booklet is the experiences shared by film artistes, including Shabana Azmi and Rehana Sultan, who had stayed in Jayakar Bungalow when it served as the FTII girls' hostel," Prakash Magdum, director, NFAI, said.

Over the years, the ownership of the bungalow changed hands - from being Barrister Jayakar's residence to the Indian Law Society's premises and then being given to Film and Television Institute of India and finally to the NFAI, which has functioned from there since 1973.

"We wanted to restore the unique architecture and aesthetic value to bring back the glory of the olden times. The objective was to conserve the heritage structure and make it contemporary so that it can be accessible for citizens and film lovers. We wanted this place to be a cultural hub where film lovers can come and engage in meaningful conversations," Mr. Magdum said.

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Corrigendum
Previous published e-Open Tender Notice No-ELECT-CRW-HRT-OT-4 dated: 28.08.2019 for the work "Provision of 36 nos. mobile charging point in 384 nos. GS/GSCN & provision of 18 nos. mobile charging point in 166 nos. GS/GSCN coaches at CRW/HRT during POH" by For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop has been cancelled.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer
Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut
PR/1214/HRT/ELEC/C/19-20/20

IN BRIEF

Yediyurappa plans film city at Roerich Estate

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Sunday proposed that a film city be built at the Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate at Tataguni, a lung space spread over 460 acres off Kanakapura Road here. As the estate is part of the elephant corridor between Bannerghatta and Savandurga, the proposal has not gone down well with environmentalists, who feel it will disturb its thriving biodiversity.

Youth dies in alleged police assault in Raichur

RAICHUR

There was tension at Gabbur village in Karnataka's Raichur district on Sunday after an angry mob staged a protest and blocked the Raichur-Deodurg main road by burning tyres and throwing stones at a police station alleging that a 25-year-old youth, Shivakumar, died after he was assaulted by sub-inspector Muddurangappa of the Gabbur Police Station. The youth had been questioned over disturbances during the recent Ganesh idol immersion.

Health emergency in Andhra Pradesh, says JSP

VISAKHAPATNAM

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) has demanded that the government declare health emergency in Andhra Pradesh and include treatment of dengue and malaria under Aarogyasri scheme.

The government failed to take preventive measures to tackle seasonal fevers, JSP Political Affairs Committee member Kona Tata Rao alleged here on Sunday. He said 120 persons had lost their lives in the State in the last couple of months due to the fevers.

Conspiracy by Sangh Parivar to create more divisions: Pinarayi

Kerala CM joins chorus of protest against Home Minister's push for Hindi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday joined several Opposition leaders who condemned Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that Hindi was best placed to be "India's common and unifying language."

The State's newly appointed Governor, Arif Mohammad Khan, however, tweeted to support Mr. Shah, saying "unity through Hindi as a national language alongside the mother tongue."

Mr. Khan later clarified that all languages spoken in India were national languages. The Constitution did not call Hindi a national language but placed a responsibility on the country to develop it as an official language.

Pinarayi Vijayan

In a scathing Facebook post, Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Shah had wilfully exacerbated language divisions to divert public attention from critical issues that plague the nation.

He said he saw a conspiracy by the Sangh Parivar to open a new battlefront in the name of the language to produce more schisms within society. The Union Minister's statement that Hindi could unite the nation was "pure idiocy", Mr. Vijayan said.

The Chief Minister pointed out that south Indian and northeastern States had their ancient languages while Mr. Shah wanted to make Hindi their mother tongue.

'Attack on people'

Mr. Vijayan characterised Mr. Shah's words as an attack on people who viewed their native language on the same pedestal as their mother.

Stating that Hindi was a language spoken by a large section of people, he said it was wrong to impose it arbitrarily on people who spoke other tongues. Moreover, the Constitution envisaged a republic that respected and upheld linguistic diversity, he said.

The Chief Minister said the Sangh Parivar had attempted to resurrect language conflicts, which had long ceased to exist to provide cover for the fumbling Central government.

His words seemed to echo the sentiments of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Bannerji, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M. K. Stalin and Pattali Makkal Katchi leader S. Ramdoss, a BJP ally, among other leaders.

In Kerala, Mr. Vijayan also found common cause with Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullapally Ramachandran and Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala on the issue. Both the Congress leaders had slammed Mr. Shah for "attempting" to stoke linguistic fervour.

Embrace diversity: Siddaramaiah

One language not possible, says Jairam Ramesh

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that Hindi was the only language that can unify the country, former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday termed him a "wicked insider in a joint family who finds ways to break the unity".

Mr. Siddaramaiah tweeted: "This home wrecker needs to be taught a lesson!! India has rich history and diverse geography. Each explains its own vibrant culture and practice. We have to embrace the diversity to remain united."

Youth Congress members staging protest against the Centre in Bengaluru on Sunday. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a jibe at Mr. Shah's 'One nation, One language' statement by saying that "we may have one nation-one election, one nation-one tax, but under no circumstance can we have one nation and one language or culture."

Mr. Ramesh was speaking at the founder's day celebrations at the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industries. In a pointed gesture, he addressed dignitaries on the dais in Kannada, Hindi, and English before his speech.

BJP leaders defend

Among the BJP leaders, who defended the Home Minister's statement, Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said, "I don't think Hindi will be imposed on the people of non-Hindi speaking States. We are not ready to tolerate if they impose Hindi on us. We are Kannadigas and will not tolerate the attack on Kannada." Other BJP leaders tried to downplay the statement.

Shaken passengers: Rescue workers shifting those who survived the boat tragedy in the swollen Godavari near Devipatnam in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. ▪ PTI

Boat tragedy exposes serious safety lapses

'Many private parties ply without licence, fitness certificate'

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
VIJAYAWADA

Despite frequent boat accidents in the Godavari and Krishna rivers claiming several lives, no precautionary measures are being taken to prevent them.

Twenty-one persons drowned in the Krishna on November 12, 2017, when a boat carrying tourists to Pavitra Sangamam, near Ibrahimpatnam, on the outskirts of Vijayawada, capsized. Sixteen persons were rescued.

Nineteen persons drowned when a boat overturned in the Godavari near Manturu village in East Godavari district in May, 2018. Seventeen persons survived.

According to officials, many private boat operators don't follow the rules prescribed by the Indian Registration of Shipping and the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

Sources say that more than 40 boats operate in the Krishna and about 75 in the Godavari. However, only a few possess fitness certificates as per the Public Canals and Ferry Act, 1890.

"Permission should be given only after verifying the hull shape, motor capacity, tonnage, length and breadth, bottom and other specifications. Many private boat owners are flouting the norms," an irrigation official told *The Hindu*.

No follow-up action

The AP Tourism Department Corporation (APTDC) operates 52 boats in Vijayawada, Nagarjuna Sagar, Dindi Resorts, Rajamahendravaram, Sri Sailam, Pattiseema, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Gargeyapuram Cheruvu, Brahmasagaram and other tourist spots. However, unconfirmed reports say that over 200 boats operate in rivers and canals to tourist places without licence and ignoring safety norms.

After the boat tragedy in the Krishna in 2017, the then TDP government constituted a committee to study the licensing system for boats in other States. However, there was no follow-up.

AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services personnel said owners should follow all fire safety norms and ensure that the boats contain fire extinguishers, caution boards, sand buckets and other fire-fighting equipment. "Inflammable material should not be carried on the boats and smoking should not be allowed. Boat drivers should not allow overcrowding on the vessels," a fire official said. To prevent tragedies, officials should conduct raids regularly at the tourist spots, said B. Soujanya, a tourist.

Boat owner booked

The police have registered a case of criminal negligence against Venkata Ramana, the owner of the boat that capsized on Sunday, and a few others for operating the boat though the Godavari was in spate.

Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has announced ex gratia of ₹ 5 lakh each to the victims hailing from Telangana.

(*With inputs from Hyderabad*)

Kerala govt. calls all-party meet tomorrow on Maradu

Deadline for vacating the flats ended on Sunday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the deadline set by the Supreme Court for the demolition of the four Maradu apartment complexes nearing, the Kerala government has called an all-party meeting here on Tuesday at 3.30 p.m. to discuss the issue.

The Supreme Court on September 6 gave the authorities time till September 20 to demolish the illegal apartment blocks at Maradu in Ernakulam district for violating Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ) norms.

The Chief Minister's office said the residents, who are staging demonstrations against the order, had refused to leave even as the deadline for vacating the flats ended on Sunday.

Meanwhile, CPI State secretary Kanam Rajendran said he did not think that any political party would oppose the Supreme Court verdict. The law was broken by the builders, he said. The CPI cannot support people who violated the law. The all-party meeting was being convened considering the humanitarian aspects on the issue, he said.

A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and M.R. Shah had also directed Chief Secretary Tom Jose to be present in the courtroom on September 23, when the case is to be heard next.

Flats no longer our responsibility: builder

STAFF REPORTER
KOCHI

In a letter to the Maradu municipal secretary, the builders of Alfa Serene, one of the apartment complexes in Maradu facing demolition, said that the flats were no longer their responsibility since the possession lay with the current owners, Maradu municipal secretary Mohammed Arif Khan said.

The reply from Alfa Ventures was in response to a notice served on the builders of all the four apartment complexes by the municipality.

Aranmula sees frenzied fight of 52 snakeboats

The annual Uthrittathi Vallamkali under way at the Pampa river at Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala on Sunday. ▪ LEJU KAMAL

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR
PATHANAMTHITTA

It was all pomp and gaiety in the otherwise tranquil waters of river Pampa at Aranmula in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district on Sunday. And the annual snakeboat regatta (Uthrittathi Vallamkali) held in the river in the afternoon marked the grand finale of the annual season of snakeboat races in this part of Central Travancore.

The palliyodams (snakeboats) of Melukara and Vanmazhy karayogams have won the Mannam Trophy for their excellent performance in the Vallamkali.

The A-batch palliyodams of Edayaranmula, Edasserimala-East and Thekkemuri that stood second, third and fourth have bagged the Devaswom Board Trophy, District Panchayat Trophy and the Chief Minister's Trophy respectively. In all, 52 snakeboats took part in the event.

Legend has it that the boat race of Aranmula had its origin in the devotion of a Brahmin to Lord Parthasarathy.

A Brahmin landlord in the nearby village of Kattoor made a vow to feed one Brahmin on every Thiruvonam (Onam) day in the Malayalam month of Chingom. Happy with his devotion, Lord Krishna, in a vision, asked him to take the feast to the Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple from the next year.

The Brahmin was so overjoyed that he arranged a mass Onam feast for the devotees at the Aranmula temple from the very next year.

The Brahmin family of Kattoor used to take the articles for the feast in a country craft. Once the vessel was ambushed by criminals and the villagers, in their boats, came to its rescue. Thereafter, the villagers, in their specially-made boats, started escorting the vessel every year.

KCR opposes uranium mining plan

Telangana CM seeks support of all parties in opposing project at Nallamala forest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has categorically said it is not in favour of granting permission for uranium mining in the Nallamala forest of Amrabad in Nagarkurnool district.

Denying permission, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao instructed officials during his detailed reply to the general discussion on the budget on Sunday to draft a single-line resolution opposing uranium mining in the forest. Mr. Rao asked Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi to prepare the resolution so that it could be passed and sent to the Centre in a day or two.

Mr. Rao said the government had not accorded permission for uranium mining and it was not willing to do so in future too. The areas under the Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar projects would be adversely affected by uranium mining. This in turn would affect the delta region of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. "Drinking water supply to the twin cities dependent on Nagarjunasagar will also be affected," the Chief Minister said.

Against Centre

He said in the event of the Central government trying to push through the project, the State was prepared to fight with the Centre against any such decision.

Recalling that the Congress government had in the past given permission for taking up prospecting works in Kadapa and Nalgonda districts of the united AP, he appealed to all political parties to join hands with the government in opposing the project.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao

Earlier in the Legislative Council, Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao said the State Forest Department had rejected permission for uranium mining in the Nallamala forest in 2016. He charged that some political parties were manufacturing a movement when there was no permission for mining at all and the media too were falling into their trap.

Mr Rama Rao claimed that it was the Congress government which had permitted for uranium mining in 2009 itself and the Central Government's Atomic Minerals Division and Department of Atomic Energy were exploring the possibility.

He said the Central government agencies did not need permissions for their work and even if they were successful, the State government would not grant permission for mining.

Opposition slams KCR for action against veterinarians

Case filed against them after a dog at CM's residence died

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD

The Opposition in Telangana on Sunday hit out at the government for its 'inaction' over the spread of dengue fever and for registering a case against two veterinarians for allegedly causing the death of a pet dog at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's official residence.

The case was registered against the veterinarians under IPC Section 429 (Mischief by killing or maiming cattle) and relevant Sections of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act on September 12 based on a complaint filed by a dog handler working at Pragathi Bhavan, the official residence of the Chief Minister.

The complainant had alleged that negligence of the veterinarians, one of whom was the administrator of the private vet clinic, in providing treatment to the 11-month-old ailing dog led to its death on September 11, the police said.

'Cruel joke'

State BJP chief spokesperson K. Krishna Saagar Rao termed the action against the veterniarians an "irony of sorts". "It's a cruel joke," he said, alleging that the State had been witnessing dengue deaths due to the "criminal negligence" of the Chief Minister and the Health Minister. He wondered how many cases needed to be booked against the two for their "unaccountable governance".

All India Congress Committee spokesperson Dasoju Sravan said no action was taken when six children died of dengue on a single day at a State-run hospital. He sought to know whether or not criminal cases for negligence should be booked against the Chief Minister and Health Minister Etala Rajender. He demanded that the State government declare health emergency to control the spread of viral diseases.

Banks told not to harass farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Belagavi Deputy Commissioner S.B. Bommanahalli has asked banks not to harass farmers in flood-hit areas of Karnataka for repayment of loans.

This follows the issue of an arrest warrant by a Dharwad court against a farmer who failed to repay a crop loan taken five years ago.

Mr. Bommanahalli said the State government would take the responsibility of repaying loans of farmers who were eligible under the loan waiver scheme. Alternative arrangements would be made to help those who were not eligible, the Deputy Commissioner said.

IN BRIEF

Air India posts ₹4,600 cr operating loss in 2018-19

NEW DELHI

Air India posted an operating loss of around ₹4,600 crore in the last financial year mainly due to higher oil prices and foreign exchange losses but the debt-laden carrier expects to turn operationally profitable in 2019-20, said officials. PTI

Elephant dies of virus infection in Odisha Zoo

BHUBANESHWAR

An elephant has died of Herpes virus infection in Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) on Sunday. Postmortem revealed that the death was due to acute haemorrhagic disease , a fatal infection found in elephants for which there is no vaccine available.

Four lions rescued from 100-foot-deep dry well

AHMEDABAD

Three lions and a lioness were rescued from an open well of Gir East forest division in the early hours of Sunday, an official said.The unused well was about 100 feet deep and was situated on a farm and the four big cats, in the 2-3 year age group, fell into it on Saturday evening. PTI

Jaish threatens to attack several railway stations

CHANDIGARH

A letter purportedly sent by Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) has threatened bomb attacks at several railway stations, including Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru, police said on Sunday. PTI

Humidity to prevail in northern plains, says IMD

NEW DELHI

With the monsoon showing no signs of withdrawal, north Indian plains are unlikely to get any respite from high levels of humidity this week, MeT officials said on Sunday. The country has so far received four per cent more rains than normal, IMD data shows. PTI

Vulture culture: How the bird was saved from extinction

The number declined from 40 million in the 80s to a few thousand by 2009

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

In the late 1990s, when the population of the vultures in the country had begun to decline sharply, one White-backed vulture was rescued from Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, where vultures were dying at an alarming rate.

To study the cause of deaths of vultures, a Vulture Care Centre (VCC) was set up at Pinjore, Haryana. It was here that the rescued vulture from Rajasthan was brought.

Later, a few more vultures from Haryana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh were brought in.

Starting with just a few vultures, the VCC, until then the sole facility for conservation of vultures in the country, has come a long way in the past two decades. At present there are nine Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centres (VCBC) in India, of which three are directly administered by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

Thriving population

"The total number of vultures in these VCBCs is more than 700," said Sachin Ranade, assistant director, BNHS. Mr. Ranade said that the three species of vultures bred in the VCBC are the White-backed, Long-billed and the Slender-billed vulture.

The slender-billed vulture, which is one among the three bred at the VCBC in Pinjore, Haryana. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"By the time we started these vulture conservation breeding centers in 2004, the vulture population had already crashed significantly, almost by 99 %. As vultures are slow-breeding birds, intervention was of immediate requirement otherwise the vultures would have become extinct," said Vibhu Prakash , deputy director at BNHS.

The major reason behind the vulture population getting nearly wiped out was the drug Diclofenac, found in the carcass of cattle the vultures fed on. The drug, whose veterinary use was banned in 2008, was commonly administered to cattle to treat inflammation.

Dr. Prakash said that the objective of the VCBCs was not only to look after the vultures and breed them in captivity, but also to release them into the wild. The first objective of the VCBC was to produce a few hundred pairs of each of the three species of the endangered vultures.

Referring to the release of two Himalayan Griffon into the wild from the Pinjore VCBC in 2016, the scientists said that the objective of the test release was to see what happens when a species is kept in captivity for a long time and then set free.

Self-reliant in 40 days

He further added that for almost a month after their release, the vultures stayed around the centre, and within a month were flying well. "They joined other vultures and by 40 days they had started locating their own food and water, and soon they flew away. Unfortunately in those days we only had wing tags, so we lost track of the vultures," he said.

Enthused by the success of the release of the pair, scientists at BNHS are now planning more releases. Mr. Ranade said they are planning a release of more Himalayan Griffons at the Rajabhatkhawa Centre in Bengal later this year. Two of the birds will have satellite PTT (platform transmitting terminals) attached to them, and the rest will have wing tags and rings. The White-backed vultures from Pinjore are scheduled to be released next year.

"If after releasing the birds we don't find any drug-related mortality in the next one year, then we will release 20 more White-backed vultures and we will take 10 Long-billed vultures to Madhya Pradesh ," the scientist said.

Survey of India to deploy 300 drones for mapping country

High-resolution maps will facilitate digitisation of land titles in villages

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India's oldest scientific department, the Survey of India (SoI) – historically tasked with mapping the country – will for the first time rely on drones to map the country.

Other than unprecedented detail, a consequence of the mapping will be creating high resolution maps of land in villages facilitating the digitisation of land titles in villages, according to officials involved with the survey.

Currently the best SoI maps have a resolution of 1:250000, meaning a 1 cm on the map represents 2500 cm on the ground. The maps being prepared, according to senior officials associated with the project will be of 1:500 resolution, meaning 1 cm will represent 500 cm.

"We are aiming to provide good high-resolution foundation maps," said Gireesh Kumar, Director-General, SoI, which came into being 1767.

Precision matters: The new maps will have a 1:500 resolution where 1 cm will represent 500 cm. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Right time

"We've used aerial photography before for mapping purposes (taking pictures from planes) but that's expensive and has its limitations. This is the right time to deploy drones," he said.

The aim is to map 75% of India's geography– about 2.4 million sq km of the 3.2 million sq km – within the next two years. The organisation aims to procure about 300 drones – so far about 30 have been sourced – for the gargantuan exercise. However forests, hills and deserts are likely to be left out.

As a prelude, the SoI, which is affliated to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has signed agreements with 6 districts in Haryana, 2 in Karnataka and 2 in Maharashtra to undertake such drone-based mapping exercises. Every square kilometre mapped by drones will be encapsulated in 2500 pictures and thus be a trove of digital data.

Making the foundational map will be a ₹400-500 crore endeavour.

Sorting rural issues

A major consequence of the drone-based exercise will be the mapping of settled habitations in villages (called *abaadi* areas in legal parlance). Based on the availability of accurate maps, residents will finally be able to get property cards as well as proper legal titles to their lands. "This is unprecedented in the history of independent India and we've already executed a project in Maharashtra," said Mr. Kumar.

Two budding footballers lost in Bhopal boat tragedy

Former Indian under-14 team captain rescued by fisherman

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Attending practice sessions won't be the same for 17-year-old Suresh Kumar anymore. Squeezed between Arjun Sharma and Rahul Mishra on a scooter, he used to reach the football field every morning, endure drills together and loiter with them after school.

Even on Friday morning, Suresh, a former under-14 Indian team captain, refused to abandon the clique, but for a different reason. Attending the Ganesh idol immersion a fifth time, he was more fired up for the two, who were thrilled at the opportunity to sit in a boat and topple the idol, both the first time.

"As soon we pushed the idol, our boat capsized and I saw the two pulled under," said Suresh.

The 18-foot idol toppled sideways, sinking one of the country boats that were joined to carry it on a plank set across. While 11 youths drowned in the incident in the Lower Lake of Bhopal, Suresh and five others were rescued by a fisherman.

Former glory: Suresh Kumar, who was rescued after two boats capsized in Bhopal on Friday. ▪ SIDHARTH YADAV

Cheating death

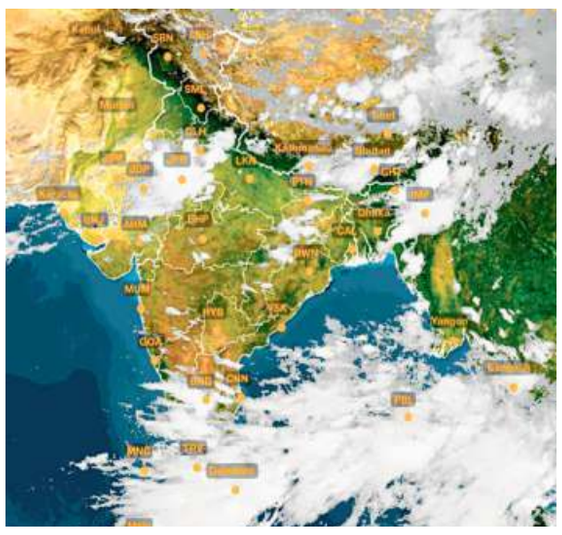
"One of the drowning youths, gasping and struggling, climbed over me to stay afloat. I thought I was gone," he said.

Throwing his feet wildly until his shoes came off, Suresh managed to stay afloat by kicking under to push himself up, until a fisherman rowed in, and he remained clinging to the boat's edge till it reached the ghat.

"Though Rahul, 18, was a good defender, I was sure Arjun would have played Nationals this year," says Rizwan Rehman, coach at the Kamla Devi Public School, where the three studied.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, western Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.8	26.6	Kozhikode	–	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	0.2	30.6	26.0	Kurnool	1.3	34.1	25.2
Aizawl	–	28.7	11.2	Lucknow	5.0	34.0	26.4
Allahabad	14.1	33.5	26.0	Madurai	17.3	33.4	23.5
Bengaluru	–	29.5	21.3	Mangaluru	12.4	30.2	23.4
Bhopal	8.4	27.6	22.0	Mumbai	31.4	28.6	23.5
Bhubaneswar	–	33.8	26.1	Mysuru	–	30.7	20.8
Chandigarh	–	33.5	27.1	New Delhi	1.8	34.6	27.3
Chennai	–	34.8	25.2	Patna	0.4	34.0	26.6
Coimbatore	8.8	32.6	23.8	Port Blair	41.9	26.0	22.0
Dehradun	22.6	32.2	22.7	Puducherry	70.6	33.0	21.3
Gangtok	26.2	20.8	17.5	Pune	0.2	26.6	21.2
Goa	6.3	29.4	25.1	Raipur	–	32.3	24.6
Guwahati	1.9	34.0	25.2	Ranchi	–	32.5	22.6
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	–	24.1	16.6
Hyderabad	0.8	31.0	22.5	Shimla	–	23.6	16.2
Imphal	–	31.7	20.0	Srinagar	–	31.5	12.8
Jaipur	29.2	–	25.3	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.4	24.8
Kochi	21.8	29.6	25.0	Tiruchi	8.0	35.2	25.0
Kohima	2.6	24.0	18.4	Vijayawada	1.2	34.5	25.4
Kolkata	0.2	34.0	27.3	Visakhapatnam	–	31.0	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	79	.87	50	129	–	
Bengaluru	10	.60	62	–	93	
Chennai	6	.10	31	39	–	
Delhi	8	.49	17	60	176	
Hyderabad	27	.28	16	45	69	
Kolkata	12	.33	10	65	89	
Lucknow	6	.35	47	117	–	
Mumbai	16	.22	87	16	–	
Pune	74	8	66	43	43	
Visakhapatnam	16	.45	30	63	88	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sirsa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 170 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 20.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tremors trigger fear along Narmada

They have coincided with the filling up of the Sardar Sarovar Dam

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

At 4.45 a.m. on Wednesday, when a blast ripped through the air of Ekalbara, sending reverberations across, all its terrified residents poured into the village square and remained there for an hour.

The 153 families of the village in Dhar district, facing submergence due to the swelling backwaters in the Narmada, had felt the tremors for the second time in the day. Earlier, on September 7 and 9, tremors had again rocked them out of sleep.

Grip of terror

Terror has gripped more than 12 villages in the Barwani district, and in Ekalbara in Dhar district, as tremors measuring up to two on the Richter Scale have been experienced there since August.

This has coincided with the filling up of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, downstream in Gujarat, to its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres for the first time, to test its integrity. Though the dam should be filled up only by October 15, the level had already reached 138.34 metres on Sunday.

Cracked walls in a house in Dhar, after the tremors.

"The blasts are so loud that they could be heard even 6-7 km away. It's like one you'd hear from a mine, that'd send birds flying away," said Bharat Mandloi, 38, a farmer from Ekalbara. "Even at the site of rehabilitation, tremors are being felt. We've never experienced them in the region before."

Stating that an expert from the Geological Survey of India had been called to study the phenomenon, Dhar Collector Srikanth Banoth said, "Anyway, the village has been evacuated as it has been submerged by the backwaters. The tremors were light and ranged between two and three on the Richter scale."

Quick succession

Meanwhile, in the Mandil village of Barwani district, 55-year-old Narsingh More said five-six tremors in quick succession within a minute were felt almost every day. "Half the village has emptied, cattle run helter-skelter, and water in wells strangely bubbles after a blast. Many have left behind property in the custody of one or two family members and shifted to relatives in safer villages," he said.

His 20-by-20 feet *kuccha* hut has even developed cracks. "No one is sleeping indoors at night," he said. "The authorities say it is because of excess rain, but even during floods in the 1970s, we never felt such shocks."

During a visit to his constituency Rajpur last month, State Home Minister Bala Bachchan said, "Cracks have appeared in the walls of houses, and walls have collapsed in some areas. A temple has caved in at a village. The rising water level in the Sardar Sarovar Dam has created mayhem as tremors are being recorded in the villages of the Narmada Valley."

On the other hand, a senior official of the Narmada Valley Development Authority, when asked, was not aware of reports of tremors.

Arun Kumar, part of the three-member Geological survey team that conducted an investigation, told *The Hindu* that no visible fractures or changes to the physical landscape were observed in the region.

Level peaks at Sardar Sarovar

The water level in the Sardar Sarovar Dam reached its highest capacity at 138.68 metres on Sunday evening for the first time since its height was raised in 2017, an official said. To celebrate the feat, PM Modi is scheduled to be present at the dam site on September 17, which also happens to be his 69th birthday.

Army units moved to M.P. as dam overflows

It will help officials during evacuation

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has moved in the Army to assist officials in evacuating villagers from areas facing submergence due to the swelling backwaters of the Chambal river in Bhind and Sheopur districts.

"As the inflow into the Gandhi Sagar dam has been more than the outflow, 75 Army personnel in Bhind and 29 in Sheopur have been called from Gwalior," State Relief Commissioner Manish Rastogi said.

Although eight camps had been set up, villagers had not yet shifted there completely.

"Wherever needed, we will set up more camps," Mr. Rastogi said.

The Central Water Commission had sounded an alert stating that the dam in the State was in a "great crisis" as the outflow remained at 5 lakh cusecs, while the inflow touched 16 lakh cusecs.

Meanwhile, India Meteorological Department official G.D. Mishra said the low pressure area had reached the northwest Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. "At this point, we still can't negate it entirely. It will stay for at least 24 hours, after which its intensity is expected to reduce."

As on Sunday, Madhya Pradesh had received 33% more rain than normal, with the western district of Mandsaur receiving 160% more rain.

However, Sidhi and Shahdol districts stare at drought.

U.P. rivers in spate

In Uttar Pradesh, major rivers are in spate and some of them are flowing above the danger mark due to release of water from various dams, official sources said in Lucknow on Sunday.

According to a Central Water Commission report, the Ganga is flowing above the danger mark in Ballia and Ghazipur. In Varanasi, Allahabad and Badaun, the water level in the river is nearing the danger mark.

Similarly, the Yamuna is flowing above the danger mark in Hamipur and Chillaghat (Banda).

(With PTI inputs)

Seven arrested in 'witch-hunt' case in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Police arrested seven persons in Sundargarh district in Odisha on Sunday in connection with a 'witch-hunt' murder of a mother-daughter duo.

Suspecting one Gangi Kerketta, 28, and her 5-year-old daughter Sibani of practising sorcery in Ravan Jhula village under Chandiposh police station limit, some fellow villagers brutally killed the two on September 9 and threw them into the Brahmani River to erase evidence.

After the completion of preliminary investigation, Abakas Routray, sub-divisional police officer, Bonai, said the villagers dragged both the woman and the kid and tied them to a pole. They beat them brutally despite the two pleading for mercy, and hacked them to death.

While Gangi's body was recovered four days after the murder, Sibani's body is yet to be traced.

"Gangi had been branded as a witch. A migrant labourer from the village died due to illness one month after his return from Kerala. Villagers suspected Gangi's role in the death. On September 9, villagers conducted a *Sarna Puja* (a tribal worship) and also convened a village meeting," said Mr. Routray.

At the village meeting, they decided to eliminate the mother and daughter as well as Birsa Kerketta, Gangi's husband. Around 8.30 pm, Birsa Kerketta, who was outside at the time, saw the neigbours entering his house. Instead of rescuing his family, he fled to the forest.

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY

The following e-tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to **www.ireps.gov.in** and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing and Opening time for all tenders are **14:30 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Open Tender No.	Short Description of work	Value	Date of Tender	
				Closing	Opening
1.	EW/1038	Providing 15m3/hr. Water Treatment Plant	₹9,93,343/-	09.10.19	09.10.19
2.	EW/1039	Service Contract for Operation and maintenance of Industrial RO plant / Sewage Treatment Plant/ Effluent Treatment / Sewage wells and cleaning of Main pump house GLR & OHT - 2 years	₹94,00,000/-	09.10.19	09.10.19
3.	EW/1040	Covering the passage between function hall and dining hall in Thiruvalluvar marriage hall	₹30,62,888/-	09.10.19	09.10.19

GREEN ICF ! CLEAN ICF !

Waiting for reforms

The stimulus incentives hold promise, but structural reforms are nowhere on the horizon

People who have been yearning for major economic reforms from the Narendra Modi government, it seems, will have to wait to have their dreams come true. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday presented the third round of stimulus measures to resuscitate the struggling economy, but once again these have largely failed to live up to the initial hype around them. The previous two rounds of the stimulus plan, presented at press conferences held by the Minister over the last few weeks, focused primarily on reviving the automobile sector, boosting the confidence of foreign investors who were spooked by the Budget announcements in July, and improving the health of dangerously fragile state-owned banks by doing everything short of privatising them. This time around the focus has been on helping out the underperforming export and real estate sectors through piecemeal fiscal reforms. Among other things, Ms. Sitharaman announced a new tax refund scheme and greater priority sector lending for the export sector to incentivise exports. It is expected that the new tax breaks to the exports sector will cause a dent of up to ₹50,000 crore to the government's revenue. Further, external commercial borrowing norms have been eased to make it easier for Indian real estate companies to tap funds from abroad, and funds worth ₹10,000 crore have also been allocated to aid the completion of affordable housing projects. With lack of demand and major supply-side bottlenecks being the primary issues facing exports and real estate, it is doubtful whether the present measures will be enough to revive these flailing sectors.

Overall, cutting across all three stimulus rounds announced till date, the government has been relying almost entirely on providing fiscal relief, in the form of tax cuts coupled with a tiny amount of government spending, to wade through what seems like a structural crisis in the economy. The hope seems to be that these measures combined with a looser monetary policy stance adopted by the RBI will boost spending and revive growth. This is, however, a far cry from what many expected from a government that promised radical structural reforms when it rose to power in 2014. Without enacting any major supply-side reforms like land and labour reforms that can raise potential growth, it is also hard to see how greater spending can raise growth for very long. The government may believe that the present slowdown, marked by five consecutive quarters of dropping growth, is merely a cyclical one. But given the size of its victory in two consecutive elections, the government should aim higher by trying to push through long-pending structural reforms that can raise India's growth trajectory to the next level.

Effort worth emulation

Rajasthan's Jan Soochna portal is a step in the right direction for transparency in governance

Fourteen years since the implementation of the groundbreaking Right to Information (RTI) Act, which has helped shed light on government works and administration, the launch of the "Jan Soochna Portal" (public information portal) by the Rajasthan government on Friday marks a milestone in increasing transparency and accountability in governance. The portal details various schemes run by 13 government departments – the employment guarantee programme, sanitation, the public distribution system among others, by not only explaining the schemes but also providing real time information on beneficiaries, authorities in charge, progress, etc. The information provided is in-depth, covering the whole gamut from the districts, blocks and panchayats, allowing access to details of schemes implemented at these levels. This is a laudable effort by the State government which is worthy of emulation by other States. The RTI Act had dealt with the citizen's right to know about public information and required public authorities to expeditiously provide information on request from the citizenry. This aspect of the Act brought a sea change in accountability and has led to the possibility of a well-informed citizenry on the workings of the government.

While RTI filings have increased exponentially and RTI-activism has become part and parcel of civil society, there have been dilutions in the Act pertaining to the appointments of information commissioners, therefore impinging on their autonomy. Besides, the response rate to RTI requests has also slowed down compared to the flurry in the immediate aftermath of the Act's implementation. These problems with the RTI law apart, it is important to note that Section 4(2) of the Act, which specifically enjoins upon public authorities to publish information pro-actively, has not been implemented holistically so far. While government departments have successfully taken to e-governance and there has been a rapid release of public information on various government-run websites, this information has often been parcelled, dispersed and difficult to parse. Some of the better maintained central websites have also tended to deploy "dashboard" information, which is meant more to showcase data and records rather than release structured information for extensive study and for the knowledge of the citizenry. As a one-shot portal for public information on government programmes, the JSP, therefore, can advance the objective of transparency. The challenge would be to ensure that the information flow remains unhampered over time. Besides this, it is important to educate the citizenry about the use of data on the portal. While digital connectivity and literacy have increased over time, these have not adequately translated into digital knowledge of public affairs.

Why India's growth figures are off the mark

The over-reliance on the organised sector for official GDP data is causing a gross miscalculation

ARUN KUMAR

During the global financial crisis, it was said that the experts were behind the curve. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and financial sector experts continued to predict till October 2008 that the global economy would grow rather than shrink. They were way off the mark since the global economy was rapidly slipping into a great recession.

Explaining the markdown

Is India facing a similar situation at present? The economic growth rate (quarterly) has been sliding for the last five quarters from 8% to 7% to 6.6% to 5.8% and now to 5%. Yet, experts have been talking of a 7% annual rate of growth; every quarter when the rate of growth has been announced, they have argued that things have bottomed out and that the rate would rise henceforth.

The Economic Survey in July talked of a growth rate of 7% for the current year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its August policy statement, talked of a slowdown to 6.9%, from the 7% predicted in June and 7.2% predicted before that. The Asian Development Bank cut its growth forecast from 7.2% to 7% in April 2019. Similar is the case with the IMF which cut its forecast for the year from 7.3% to 7%. So, they all talked of a 7% rate of growth when a year earlier it had fallen below that.

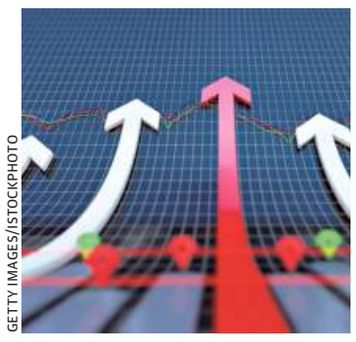
How could these agencies be so far off with their estimates? The reason is that they are not independent data gathering agencies and depend on official data. So, if official data is erroneous, their projections would also turn out to be incorrect. Clearly, the government is interested in projecting a good image and so discounts bad news and ramps up data.

The question to ask is, if the economy is growing at 5 or 6%, which is historically a good rate of growth, why is investment rate not rising and consumption in the economy stagnant? Where is growth dissipating? The alternative explanation is that the rate of growth is much less than 5%; that is why investment rate and consumption are stagnating or declining.

The investment rate has hovered at around 30% for the last several years because the capacity utilisation in the economy has been around 75%. Unless this rises, fresh investment will mean even lower capacity utilisation and lower profitability since capital will be underutilised. In June, the stock market was at a record high and yet the investment rate did not rise. Data from the Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd. shows that investment proposals are at a 14-year low. In the last year, the RBI has cut interest rates four times and by a total of more than 1%; but the investment rate has not budged.

Impact of announcements

The government has been in denial but now experts in the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, in NITI Aayog and the RBI have admitted that there is a slowdown. The Ministry of Finance has now gone into hyper



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

drive to make major announcements so soon after the full Budget was presented in July. This is an admission of there being a slowdown in the economy.

Unfortunately, none of these announcements will lead to a recovery since they do not address the source of the problem. An hour before the latest data on economy showing slowdown was to be announced, the government announced the big bank merger. Was this to divert attention from the data to be released? Be that as it may, bank mergers will have little impact on the immediate problem of the slowing economy. It may only further disturb a major chunk of the banking system in the coming year – and that would not be good for a slowing economy. The package for the automobile sector or making banks pass on interest rate cuts to businesses, announced a little earlier will also have little impact since the problem did not originate there.

The announcement of a transfer of ₹1.76 lakh crore from the RBI to the government will only cover the shortfall expected in revenue (which is a result of an unduly high projection of revenue growth). It will allow the government to maintain the fiscal deficit target at 3.3%. But, this will not provide the needed stimulus. For that the fiscal deficit would have to be allowed to rise or there has to be an increase in expenditures on the basis of mobilisation of additional revenues. The fiscal deficit today is at about 9% if the States and the public sector units are taken into account. And how much can the government raise is a political decision that has not yet been taken.

The source

So, where does the problem originate from? It is from the unorganised sector which has been in decline since demonetisation. It was further hit by the Goods and Services Tax though it is either exempt from it or there is a simplified provision for this sector. This sector producing 45% of the output and employing 94% of the workforce, has been in decline, which is pulling down the rate of growth of the economy. But, why does it not show up in the growth data?

In simple terms, the reason is that the data for this sector is collected once in five years (called reference years) since the sector has tens of millions of units for which data cannot be collected monthly, quarterly or even annually. In between the reference years, the data is only projected on various assumptions.

The government document on estimating advance annual estimates and quarterly estimates makes this clear. For estimating quarterly growth it uses, "latest estimates of Agricultural Production, Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and performance of key sectors like, Railways, Transport other than Railways, Communication, Banking, Insurance and Government Revenue Expenditure". Except for agriculture, these belong to the organised sector of the economy.

Even for the annual estimates, basically data for the organised sector are used – like in the case of mining, banking, hotels and restaurants, and transport. For construction, steel, glass, etc are used which are also derived from the organised sector production. Thus, the implicit assumption is that the organised sector can be a proxy for the unorganised sector. But with the economy suffering three shocks in quick succession over the last three years which adversely impacted the unorganised sector, this assumption does not hold true. Most of the experts have implicitly accepted the government's fallacious argument and have thus fallen behind the curve.

In brief, the official data only represents the organised sector. To incorporate the unorganised sector, data from alternative sources need to be used. The decline in the workforce, the rise in the demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, etc. suggests that the unorganised sector has declined by at least 10%. If this is taken into account, the current rate of growth is much less than 5%. If the government does not accept this, then it must reveal the rate of growth of the unorganised sector that it is using in its estimates and which is not based on using the organised sector as a proxy.

Arun Kumar is Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair Professor, Institute of Social Sciences, and the author of 'Indian Economy since Independence: Persisting Colonial Disruption'

A dilution that falls short of the law

Several loopholes in the process of the substitution of Article 370 make the action problematic

SAKAL BHUSHAN

The manner in which Article 370 was substituted by the Centre to carve up Jammu and Kashmir is fraught with several loopholes and challenges. Technically, Article 370 has not been abrogated. Rather, vide Constitution Order No. 273 dated August 6, 2019, "Declaration under Article 370(3) of the Constitution", the existing Article 370 has been substituted by a new paragraph whereby all provisions of the Constitution of India, as amended from time to time, without any modifications and exceptions, have been made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. This action of the President which amounts to the virtual abrogation of Article 370 in its essence is a matter of legal and political debate.

Process adopted

As the first step toward achieving its goal, the Centre issued a fresh Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir), Order 2019 one day earlier on August 5, 2019. This superseded the Presidential Order of 1954 purportedly with the "concurrence of the Government of State of Jammu and Kashmir", thus paving the way for the virtual abrogation of Article 370 the following day. The important aspect of this move was to substitute the expression "Constituent Assembly of the State" with the expression "Legislative Assembly of the State" in proviso to Article 370(3). Under the existing Article 370(3), it had been provided that the President could abrogate or amend Article 370 on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State which had ceased to exist in 1957.

The Centre made this amendment in proviso to Article 370(3) as a part of a well-conceived strategy. The strategy was that after such substitution, the powers of the Legislative Assembly would be used by Parliament during President's Rule. Parliament would then recommend abrogation of Article 370 to the President, which it has done leading to the issuance of C.O. No. 273 dated August 6, 2019, virtually abrogating Article 370.

Now if it is shown that the amendment made in proviso to Article 370(3) is illegal, the consequent action of the President in issuing of C.O. No. 273 would also become illegal.

The order dated August 5, 2019 had been issued by the President purportedly with the "concurrence of the Government of State of Jammu and Kashmir" as required under Article 370(1). The Government of the State had been

GETTY IMAGES

defined in Article 370(1) itself, read with C.O. No. 44 dated November 15, 1952 as a person recognised by the President "on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly of the State" as Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The expression 'Sadar-i-Riyasat' was substituted by 'Governor' in 1965.

If this was the definition of the "Government of State" in Article 370(1), the order dated August 5, 2019 cannot be said to have been issued with the concurrence of the Government of the State. The simple reason is that the Governor who is said to have given the concurrence as Government of the State was not a person recognised by the President "on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly of the State" as Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as required under law. Therefore, the order dated August 5, 2019 has not been validly issued.

Otherwise too, the August 5, 2019 order is illegal as it has the effect of amending Article 370 as well which could not have been done. The reason is that while exercising powers under Clause (1) of Article 370, the President is not competent to amend Article 370 itself; and his powers are confined only to amending the "other provisions of the Constitution" in their application to Jammu and Kashmir, meaning thereby provisions other than Articles 1 and 370. This is clear from the conjoint reading of sub-clauses (c) and (d) of Article 370(1). Consequently, the amendment introduced in proviso to Article 370(3) vide the order dated August 5, 2019 whereby the expression "Constituent Assembly of the State" has been substituted by the expression "Legislative Assembly of the State", is bad in law on this basis also.

Since the amendment made in proviso to Article 370(3) is illegal, the consequent action of the President in issuing the C.O. No. 273 virtually abrogating Article 370, based upon a recommendation made by Parliament which in turn became possible due to the said illegal amendment, is also rendered illegal.

Adverse effect

Apart from the issue of the legality or otherwise of the order virtually abrogating Article 370 in its essence, another question which arises is whether it was at all required to be done, weighing its likely adverse effects. The true nature of Article 370 as it existed is best exemplified by the then Home Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda's statement in Parliament on December 4, 1964 just a few months after Nehru's death. Nanda had said, "May I submit that Article 370 is neither a wall nor a mountain, but that it is a tunnel. It is through this tunnel that a good deal of traffic has already passed and more will. There is no wall between Jammu and Kashmir and India. At the most, you can say it is some kind of movable partition. We can move it on our own. There is nothing coming in the way."

And the noted journalist B.G. Verghese had once asked, "If Article 370 vests the people of Kashmir with a certain sense of identity and autonomy within the ambit of federal relations, how is India diminished or endangered in any way?" The virtual abrogation of Article 370 will leave indelible scars on the psyche of the vast population inhabiting the strategically located territory of India; otherwise there had been practically nothing 'special' about Kashmir's 'special status' for all the years that have passed by.

Sakal Bhushan is a Delhi-based practising advocate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Statements that divide

With one statement, the Home Minister has divided the country and achieved the opposite of what he professedly intended (Front page, "Only Hindi can work to unite country, asserts Amit Shah", Sept. 15). The Central government represents the entire country. Just because its offices are located in a Hindi-speaking area it does not mean all Indians are for Hindi. There are two myths here that need to be cleared. First, Hindi is not the national language. All the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution are equally important. Indians not speaking Hindi outnumber those speaking the language. Second, English is not a foreign language. It is only a language of foreign origin. It has become our own over the more than 200 years of its use. As it was introduced as a language of administration all over India, it had unified the country. Now, English-language papers and magazines are published and read throughout India, unlike other-language publications that are confined to particular regions. English has conferred immense benefits on our people. It is a doorway to knowledge. It is not for nothing that C. Rajagopalachari called it the "gift of goddess Saraswati".

B.G. BALIGA,
Thrissur, Kerala

■ At a time when the country is facing an unprecedented economic slowdown, it is unfortunate that the Home Minister has broached the subject of making Hindi the national language. May be it is a tactic to divert people's attention from the faltering economy due to the policies of his own government. The massive parliamentary majority that the Bharatiya Janata Party enjoys should not make it lose its head and cause it to become arrogant, autocratic and non-amenable to reasoning.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ No doubt Hindi has a rich literary tradition. It is also much easier to learn compared with many other Indian languages. Further, over the last seven decades, due to a host of factors including the universal reach of Hindi films and TV programmes and the internal migration of people for livelihood and other reasons, more and more people from non-Hindi speaking States today are in a position to communicate in Hindi. That said, any official attempt to push Hindi down the throats of non-Hindi speaking people can only give rise to avoidable problems. The history of countries such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka should teach governments that in a multilingual country, privileging one language at the cost of others would amount to inviting trouble. Fostering unity is a noble objective. But to think that unity can come only out of uniformity is highly fallacious.

G.G. MENON,
Tripunithura, Kerala

■ I love Hindi but imposing it as a national language and creating an unequal advantage to naturalised Hindi speakers is gross discrimination and cannot be a unifier. The government, having no reform or development measures to boast of, is targeting people's sentiments. But this time, it has scored a self-goal that may cost it electorally in the future. The Congress's history in this regard should be instructive.

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE,
Faridabad, Haryana

Banner culture

If the putting up of a banner on a road divider in Chennai was an unpardonable act, the fact that it caused the tragic death of a young woman is unforgivable (Editorial, "Bane of banners", Sept. 14). This banner culture prevalent in many Indian States simply tells that government officials are more loyal and subservient to political parties and lumpen groups. More often than not, political parties and motley crowds care a hoot for public safety and law and order.

The court's question: "How many more litres of blood do you want to paint on the roads ?" must serve as a rude awakening and a chilling eye-opener to all concerned.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

A hawk departs

Whether John Bolton resigned voluntarily or was asked to resign, his resignation is a welcome development (Editorial, "John Bolton goes," Sept. 13). Once, when asked a "difficult" question by journalist John Pilger, Mr. Bolton had asked the latter whether he was a member of the Communist Party, inferring that anyone as critical of the neoconservative agenda as Mr. Pilger must have been at the other extreme of the spectrum.

Had he been the leader of a foreign country striving towards independent development and sitting on vast oil reserves, Mr. Bolton would have been the West's arch-enemy and a favourite for the U.S. corporate media to lampoon. But as he has spent a career furthering U.S. interests in the world, Mr. Bolton automatically gains a certain degree of respectability amongst the West's cultural gatekeepers whose partiality stems from the erroneous idea of American exceptionalism.

LOUIS SHAWCROSS,
Hillsborough, Northern Ireland

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Mission successful, end product defunct

Completed in record time and launched with fanfare, the Train 18 project now finds itself off track

K. BALAKESARI

Perhaps the most abiding image of the recent saga of the Chandrayaan-2 mission, which came tantalisingly close to getting the Vikram spacecraft to make a soft landing on the lunar surface, was that of the Prime Minister embracing and consoling the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). That single act said eloquently what words could not have expressed adequately: that though the mission could not achieve one of its prime objectives, it had notched up a series of outstanding successes along the way for which the entire nation is proud.

As the grand finale unfolded on television screens all over the country, despite the let-down at the end, a strong wave of support and sympathy was visible for the band of dedicated scientists and engineers of the space agency, who had given their all for the success of the mission. Watching the sequence of events, as a former railway professional, I could not help but reflect on the sharp contrast of the Chandrayaan-2 with another initiative, this one by the Indian Railways, which succeeded in achieving its objectives on schedule and yet, within a few months, unravelled in an unexpectedly different manner.

A technological marvel

A little less than a year ago, in October 2018, the country was celebrating a technological achievement of a purely terrestrial nature: the successful rolling out of a gleaming state-of-the-art, semi-high-speed (of 160 kmph-200 kmph speed) train set called 'Train 18' in an incredibly short time span of 18 months. If Chandrayaan-2 brought India close to joining the select band of three countries in the world to have successfully achieved a soft landing on the moon, Train 18 propelled India into the exclusive club of about a half a dozen countries in the world that have the capability to turn out a brand new design of a high-speed/semi-high-speed train set in such a short time.

The Vande Bharat Express (Train 18) at the New Delhi Railway Station in February. The project was completed in a record time of 18 months. • AP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew down to witness the landing of the lunar vehicle at the satellite tracking centre in Bengaluru. A few months earlier, in February, he had flagged off the inaugural run of the Train 18 as 'Vande Bharat Express' in Varanasi. The train has provided a trouble-free performance in the last six months. Unfortunately, perhaps it was the outstanding success of the Train 18 project that proved to be its undoing.

The unravelling had commenced even before Train 18's inaugural run as Vande Bharat Express. Following top-level changes in the Railway Board at the turn of the New Year, a vigilance investigation was launched into certain alleged procedural irregularities and allegations of undue favours shown to a particular indigenous firm in awarding contracts for the crucial propulsion system.

It was also reported that deviations had been observed from the specifications prescribed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO). Meanwhile, the man who had spearheaded the Train 18 project – from its conception and design to its launch – as General Manager of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and who retired at the end of last year, was not even extended an invitation for the train's ceremonial inaugural run in February 2019. (In contrast, some former ISRO chiefs were invited to witness Vikram's descent.)

As though to add a touch of dark humour, a few months after the train's inauguration, post the general election, it was announced at the highest policymaking level of the Indian Railways that "the Railways would be willing to start import of complete train sets from foreign suppliers if they agreed to establish the coach manufacturing facility in India". (This is equivalent to ISRO going in for import of its rockets and space vehicles from the U.S. or Russia!)

With the train set's production having come to a halt in ICF, Chennai, despite tenders having been floated, Project 18 is as good as dead now.

What explains this vast divergence in the way the two missions, Chandrayaan-2 and Train 18, panned out? The two organisations, ISRO and the Indian Railways, are as different as chalk and cheese. Though both the public sector organisations have notched up a series of successes that truly reflected the spirit of 'Make in India' long before the phrase became fashionable, their objectives and organisational structure are entirely different. While ISRO functions mostly in 'mission mode' to achieve specific goals of a mission, the Indian Railways operates normally in 'maintenance mode', to keep the wheels of the railway network moving as efficiently as possible with the least disruption. This aim is achieved through more than a dozen functional departments that normally work in close coordination. Only certain specific projects or initiatives are undertaken in 'mission mode'. The Train 18 project was one such undertaking that required the planners to cut red tape and reduce needless procedural hassles. It is likely that in the process, certain 'sacrosanct' boundaries of departmental silos were breached for no other reason than to speed up decision-making.

Impact of internal turf wars

It is not the intention here to pass judgments on the rights and wrongs of actions and decisions that enabled the launch of Train 18 in record time, or of the subsequent decisions that effectively derailed the mission. What, however, is of public interest is the enormous damage that the scourge of interdepartmental rivalries and internecine turf wars within the Indian Railways has done to the organisational morale and synergistic functioning of the nation's prime public transporter. Unfortunately, Train 18 appears to have become the latest victim of this age-old malady of the Indian Railways.

A committee of experts under economist and NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy, tasked among other things to suggest ways of breaking down departmental silos within the Indian Railways to improve efficiency and speed of decision-making, gave its recommendations in early 2015. The 'Mission Train 18' episode is proof, if any evidence is at all required, that nothing has changed since then and that the departmental silos are alive and well. It is futile to expect the techno-bureaucracy of the Indian Railways to reform itself. The ball is in the court of the political leadership to push for reforms in this area. Otherwise, the Indian Railways will continue to notch up more successes like Train 18 that fade into oblivion, unlike ISRO where, it seems, public opinion reckons even a failure as a victory.

K. Balakesari is former member, Staff Railway Board

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Heeding the voice of conscience

At difficult times, journalism must retain its ability to scrutinise the state rather than becoming a cheerleader

A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Some readers felt that that my column on the communication blackout in Jammu and Kashmir, ("A disturbing downward spiral", September 9, 2019), did not display the restraint that is necessary in these unusual times. I agree with them that we live in unusual times. How else can one explain the current situation where courts get to decide who should meet whom and whether the deliberations of such meetings can be shared with the larger world? On September 13, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court allowed two MPs of the Lok Sabha belonging to the National Conference (NC) party to meet Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, the president and vice president of the NC, respectively. The court ruled that the meeting of the petitioners with their party leaders should be restricted to a "courtesy call to know about their wellbeing" and should not be followed by interactions with the press.

I agree with legal scholar Gautam Bhatia's contention that the Supreme Court has become "The absentee constitutional court" (September 12, 2019). Instead of deciding one way or the other on crucial constitutional issues following the Union government's decision to downgrade Jammu and Kashmir's 'special status' under Article 370 of the Constitution, and strip it of statehood, the highest court in the country "has dodged, ducked, evaded and adjourned", and the judiciary "has simply vacated the field, absented itself, and chosen to walk away", wrote Mr. Bhatia.

Guided by values

In this scenario, I am not surprised that some readers mistake the news judgment of this newspaper that is guided by a set of values to be directed, instead, by prejudice. A sensitive news ombudsman recognises the perimeter of his role and realises that any overreach would not only kill journalism, but also eventually undermine democracy itself. At difficult times, journalism must retain its ability to scrutinise the state rather than becoming a cheerleader.

As a news ombudsman, I evaluate complaints relating to journalism using three critical markers: fairness, balance, and accuracy. In a newspaper like *The Hindu*, news and views are clearly labelled. Citizens' views reveal legitimate aspirations. They cannot be subsumed by the stranglehold of the ruling establishments over public narratives. In his judgment in *Manoj Narula v. Union of India* (2014), Justice Kurian Joseph observed: "When things go wrong constitutionally, unless the conscience speaks, it is not good conscience; it will be accused of as numb conscience."

Bias is a nebulous term

When a news ombudsman makes it clear that he cannot be a party to numb conscience, a few tend to interpret his reading as bias. Bias is a nebulous term. Nathan Robinson, editor of the magazine *Current Affairs*, dealt with this vexatious issue in his column in *The Guardian* recently. He wrote: "It should be obvious that there can't be such a thing as a neutral journalist. We all have moral instincts and points of view. Those points of view will colour our interpretations of the facts. The best course of action is to acknowledge where we're coming from. If we show an awareness of our own political leanings, it actually makes us more trustworthy than if we're in denial about them."

If some reduce the moral compass of journalism to bias, journalists need to take a cue from the American Press Institute (API) in dealing with this exasperating issue. The API effectively argued that "draining a story of all bias can drain it of its humanity, its lifeblood. In the biases of the community one can also find conflicting passions that bring stories to life." It then asks, "What if journalists acknowledged that bias does exist, that it is built into the choices they make when deciding what to leave in and what to leave out? That bias is embedded in the culture and language of the society on which the journalist reports? And that 'news judgment' does reflect the journalist's background as well as the news organization's mission and business model?"

Is it possible to be free of opinion regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir? Isn't it a false balance if we equate the official narrative with the reality, as if they are two equal sides to the issue? Journalism cannot become a collateral cost to being oblivious to people's experiences.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The litmus test for free speech

The court should uphold constitutional rights by reaffirming the Brandenburg test

MARKANDEY KATJU

Freedom of speech and individual liberty are enshrined in Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution. However, these rights, like all others, are not absolute but subject to reasonable restrictions. What would be a reasonable restriction is an extremely important matter to consider, as on that would depend the validity of several detention orders and prosecutions in India.

Reasonable restrictions

In America, the earlier decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court had laid down the 'bad tendency' test to determine whether the restriction was reasonable or not. This test was that free speech or acts could be prohibited if they were likely to adversely affect the welfare of the public. However, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a celebrated judge of the U.S. Supreme Court, felt that the 'bad tendency' test was vague. In *Schenck v. United States* (1919), he laid down the 'clear and present danger' test to determine the reasonability of the restriction. This test means that a restriction would be reasonable only if the speech or action constitutes a clear and present (and not remote) danger to state security or public order.

The 'clear and present danger' test was not consistently followed by the U.S. Supreme Court, though. In *Dennis v. United States* (1951), for instance, a 'balancing' test was adopted.

In *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969), the 'clear and present danger' test was expanded, and the 'imminent lawless action' test was laid down by the U.S. Supreme Court, which the court has followed since. This test states, "The constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press do not permit the state to forbid or proscribe advocacy of the use of force or of law violation, except where such advocacy is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action".

The word 'imminent' used in the judgment is very important. Imminent means 'likely to happen very soon,' 'at hand,' or 'fast approaching.'

Two decisions of the Indian Supreme Court – *Sri Indra Das v. State of Assam* (2011) and *Arup Bhuyan v. State of Assam* (2011) – followed the decision in *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, and so Brandenburg has become the law of the land in India too.

Incorrect decisions

By applying the Brandenburg test, it becomes evident that the prosecution against the Bhima Koregaon accused; Professor G.N. Saibaba; activist Shehla Rashid; and Pawan Jaiswal, the journalist who published a report that children in a primary school in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, were getting only roti and salt in their mid-day meals; among others deserve to be quashed as these acts or speeches did not create any danger of an imminent lawless act. The recent detention of many persons in Kashmir (except those accused of militant activities) would also be illegal from that standpoint.

Recently, the Bombay High Court rejected the plea of Gautam Navlakha, an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, for quashing the criminal proceedings against him, observing that there was some material to indicate that the accused was in contact with Naxalites. But being in contact with a militant organisation cannot by itself be a crime, as it does not result in any imminent lawless act. One could be a writer who contacts Naxalites for doing research about them, or a social activist, or even a sympathiser. That would be legal, being within the ambit of the Brandenburg test.

It is submitted with respect that the Bombay High Court's decision is incorrect, and should be set aside by the Supreme Court, which should reaffirm the Brandenburg test. That would pave the way for quashing several detentions and prosecutions (many of them based on manufactured evidence) which are a slur on democracy and liberty.

In these critical days in India, when onslaught on liberty and freedom of speech is commonplace, it is the higher judiciary which must do its duty as guardians of the citizens' constitutional rights. The court must not succumb as it did during the Emergency.

Markandey Katju is a former Judge of the Indian Supreme Court

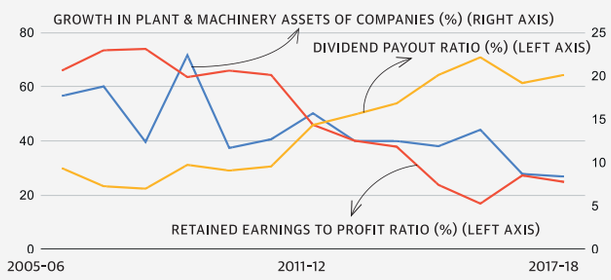
DATA POINT

Corporate fault lines

The cumulative revenue growth of 642 companies in the corporate sector dropped to 5.7%, an 11-quarter low, in the first quarter of FY20. For the past few quarters, the sector has been showing signs of weakening investment. It has pulled back on investments in the recent quarters, not because its borrowing capacity is stressed, but because its productivity has taken a hit due to demand slowdown. By **The Hindu Data Team**

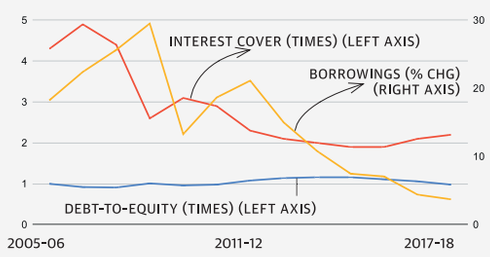
1 INVESTMENT WOES: Plant and machinery assets of non-finance companies, an important tangible resource needed for a firm's rise, grew at 8.4% in FY18, the slowest in 13 years. Companies had also reduced the share of profits retained for possible future investments and instead paid more dividend to investors in the recent years

The corporate sector had not only reduced investing in new capacities but had also held back investments for the future, in the last 4 years



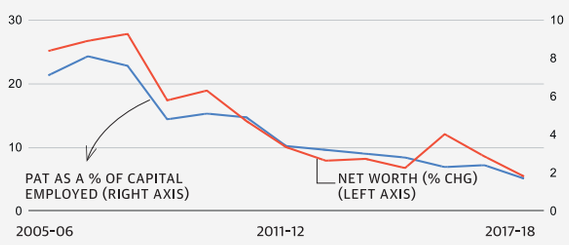
2 WAS MONEY AN ISSUE? The debt-to-equity ratio* and the interest cover ratio# — which decide whether a company can borrow more to invest in assets — are reasonably strong as of FY18 for non-finance firms. But borrowings of such companies grew at the slowest pace in 13 years

Despite corporate balance sheets allowing them to borrow and bank balance sheets allowing them to lend, neither happened to boost investments



3 UNPRODUCTIVE BUSINESSES: The reason for the low investment growth despite companies being in a position to borrow may lie in the fact that return on investments was down. Profit after Tax (PAT) as a % of capital employed fell to 1.7%, the lowest in 13 years. Also the net worth of non-finance companies grew at 5.43%, again the slowest in 13 years

Thus, weak returns from the capital invested and overall fall in net worth of companies due to less profitability led to low investments



*RATIO < 1 INDICATES THAT DEBT IS LOWER THAN EQUITY # RATIO >1 INDICATES THAT PROFIT IS MORE THAN INTEREST PAYMENTS

SOURCE: CMIE

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO (FROM THE ARCHIVES DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 1969 THERE BEING NO ISSUE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1969)

Ceylon declares emergency

The Ceylon Government proclaimed a nation-wide state of emergency last night [September 13] and declared electricity and oil as essential services following a strike by the electricity and petroleum workers. The situation in the island was calm to-day. The whole island was plunged into darkness last night, as men manning the power stations struck work at 3-45 p.m. demanding a revision of their salary. Government as well as the public were taken completely unawares as the strike was sudden without any prior notice. Earlier yesterday, 4,000 workers at the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation struck for higher salaries, paralysing petroleum distribution throughout Ceylon. The Government has ordered the Army to take over key points at oil and power stations. All Army, Navy, Air Force and Police leave had been cancelled and volunteer units in the Services were being mobilised to deal with the situation, a Government spokesman said. The strike by about 6,000 Electricity Department workers was settled last night after urgent negotiations by candle-light.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 16, 1919.

Simla and Punjab.

In connection with the Pandit's resolution about the Punjab enquiry when the Home Member charged Mr. Ayyengar with minimizing events Mr. Ayyengar replied that the Home Member so prejudiced against him as not to hear him refer to the regrettable members of Europeans. The Viceroy said that the Home Member accepted the correction. Mr. Chanda's resolution on the removal of the Punjab Government from Simla evoked heated discussion. The Tiwana Khan waxed eloquent on Panjabi's war services. Mr. Sarma and Mr. Sinha pointed out how his constant bragging was hardly in good taste.

(Associated Press of India.) Simla, September 15. – A meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council was held this morning, Sir George Lowndes, Vice President, Presided. Mr. H.R.C. Debbs, Foreign Secretary, took the oath of allegiance. In moving that Simla should cease to be the summer headquarters of the Government of the Punjab, Mr. Chanda said it might naturally be assumed that being an outsider he had no business to move the resolution, but the question had an indirect bearing on the whole of India.

Ex-inmate of Muzaffarpur shelter home gang-raped

Crime committed in moving car: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BETTIAH

A woman, who had been an inmate of the infamous Muzaffarpur shelter home, was allegedly raped by four men in a moving vehicle in Bettiah town of West Champaran district, the police said on Sunday.

The Muzaffarpur shelter home had hit the headlines in 2018 after a social audit report highlighted that over 30 girls were allegedly raped at the government-aided shelter home, run by an NGO.

Bettiah town police station SHO Shashi Bhushan Thakur said that the woman was admitted to a government medical college on Saturday evening and an examination was conducted by a team of doctors on Sunday, he said.

Medical report

It will be confirmed whether she was raped only after getting the medical examination report, he said.

The woman, in her police complaint lodged with the Bettah town police station on Saturday, alleged that four men forcibly took her inside their vehicle while she was passing through the area where she lives on Friday evening, and raped her in a moving vehicle, police said. The men then dumped the woman in her locality after raping her.

All the four men had covered their faces with masks but she could remove the masks and identify them.

While all the four persons belonged to the same family, two of them were brothers, she said.

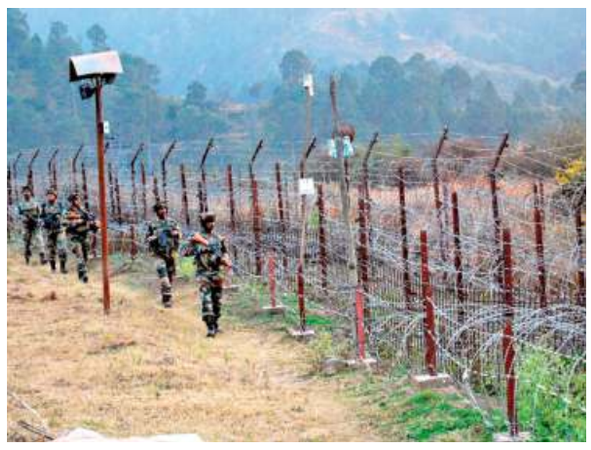
Over 30 girls were allegedly raped at the shelter home run by Brajesh Thakur, the chief of a State-funded NGO. The alleged sexual exploitation of the girls was first highlighted in an audit report submitted by TISS to the State's Social Welfare Department.

India asks Pak. to keep peace

More than 2,000 ceasefire breaches reported this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Intensifying the war of words, India on Sunday asked Pakistan to stick to the 2003 ceasefire agreement and maintain peace at the Line of Control. A government source said the Indian military response had been restrained so far despite more than 2,000 ceasefire violations by Pakistan.



India says that its response has been restrained so far despite over 2,000 violations by Pakistan this year ▪ PTI/FILE PHOTO

Unprovoked firing

"This year, they have resorted to more than 2,050 unprovoked ceasefire violations in which 21 Indians have died. We have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to ask its forces to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding and maintain peace and tranquillity along the LoC and the International Border," said a source, mentioning that India has not responded to unprovoked provocations and attempted terrorist infiltration.

The statement came after Pakistan summoned Indian *Charge d'Affaires* Gaurav Ahluwalia and conveyed Islamabad's condemnation of alleged ceasefire violations by Indian forces on September 14 in the Nikial and Jandrot sectors of the LoC.

Pakistan's charge

Pakistan said that Indian firing claimed the life of one civilian of Balakot village near the LoC, and urged India to allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to look into such incidents.

The exchange between Pakistan and India came in the backdrop of a similar diplomatic spat between Islamabad and Kabul after alleged shooting from militants in Afghanistan killed a Pakistani border guard.

A war may lead to nuclear conflict: Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said there was no question of talking to New Delhi after it revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, as he warned about the possibility of a conventional war with India which could go beyond the subcontinent.

"So that's why we have approached the United Nations, we are approaching every international forum, that they must act right now," he said.

"I am a pacifist," he told *Al Jazeera*, adding that Pakistan would never start a war. "When two nuclear-armed countries fight, if they fight a conventional war, there is every possibility that it is going to end up into nuclear war. The unthinkable," he said.

CPI(M) says Sitharaman to blame for slowdown

Party urges people to 'rise in protest'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Sunday criticised Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, saying decisions taken by her Ministry had resulted in the economic slowdown.

In a statement, the party said that instead of announcing a big increase in public investment to build the much-needed infrastructure, generate employment and thereby boost domestic demand, the Finance Minister once again announced measures that in the first place had caused this economic slowdown bordering on recession.

> **The Minister once again announced measures that in the first place had caused this slowdown**
>
> COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST)

Low purchasing power

"The emphasis on targeting private investment in the realty sector and the effort to boost exports cannot succeed. Global trade volumes were shrinking and houses were not being purchased because of sheer lack of purchasing power among the people.

The ₹70,000 crore worth of packages announced yesterday [on Saturday] instead should have been put to use in increasing public investment and paying the arrears of the MNREGA [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme], which would have boosted the purchasing power in rural India," the statement said.

It called upon the people to rise in protest against the policies that "only favour the maximisation of profits at the expense of growing misery for the people.

Man falls while removing hoarding in Chennai

Incident follows death of woman techie

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A 30-year-old worker, Rajesh, suffered injuries when one of the hoardings he was removing outside an apartment complex under the Pallikaranai police station limits collapsed on Saturday evening.

Following the death of Subasri, 22, on the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road on Thursday, the Chennai Corporation started removing illegal hoardings. Rajesh and a few others were removing a 50-foot billboard on a road, which is about 100 metres from the place where Subasri lost her life. Rajesh lost his balance and fell.

He sustained injuries on the leg and hands. "He is undergoing treatment at a private hospital and is said to be out of danger. No one has given a complaint so far," said a police officer from the Pallikaranai station.

The 50-foot billboard that collapsed on Saturday.

The police are yet to arrest AIADMK functionary Jayagopal, who put up banners for his son's wedding. One of the banners fell on Subasri. The police said they were yet to ascertain his whereabouts.

'SC order on Cauvery should be adhered to'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The judgment of the Supreme Court in the Cauvery river water dispute should be adhered to by all stakeholders, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit said here on Sunday. He also said that linking up the Godavari with the Cauvery for transferring the surplus water would be of immense benefit to the State.

Speaking at an event 'Cauvery Calling' organised by Isha Foundation, Mr. Purohit said: "It comes as a big relief that the long-standing Cauvery river dispute before the Tribunal and the Supreme Court has come to an end. It is necessary, as law abiding citizens, for all stakeholders to adhere to the directions of the apex court of the land in letter and spirit."

Delhi-Dhaka ties best ever now: Bangladesh Minister

Prime Minister Hasina's visit to focus on economic ties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh and India are currently enjoying "best ever" relations, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh A.K. Abdul Momen said during an interaction with the media in Dhaka. The observations form the backdrop to the October 3-6 visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that will include a summit-level meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A.K. Abdul Momen

"The Bangladesh average economic growth was only 3.2% from 1976 to 1990, which is 6.8% in last 10 years... this is amazing," said Dr. Momen, emphasising that the main success of the Sheikh Hasina government is the high rate of economic growth.

The senior Minister said Ms. Hasina and Mr. Modi would discuss a number of bilateral issues on October 5 but did not reveal specifics. Both leaders are expected to meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month.

Bangladesh has recently been in the spotlight after the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam was published last month, which excluded more than 1.9 million individuals. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had assured Bangladesh that the future of the NRC-excluded Bengali-speaking people in Assam is an internal issue of India.

Subsequently, however, Home Minister Amit Shah had said the people excluded from the NRC will not find space in India. Bangladesh has steadfastly refused to be drawn into the debate, with Dhaka pointing out that India has declared the NRC an internal issue of India.

It appears that Dhaka will highlight its economic success to draw investment from India during the Premier Hasina's visit, when she is also expected to participate in the India Economic Forum.

Gangwar insulted north Indians: Opposition

He said job aspirants lacked quality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar has said there is no dearth of employment opportunities in the country, but recruiters visiting north India complain of lack of "quality people" to fill vacancies.

Opposition leaders accused him of insulting the people of the region.

The comments came amid criticism of the Centre over the unemployment rate rising to a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.

"Recruiters who visit north India complain of facing dearth of quality people for the posts they need to fill," he told presspersons in Bareilly, his Lok Sabha constituency, on Saturday.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said: "Mr. Minister, it has been more than five years for your government. There is no job creation. Whatever jobs were there, they have been snatched due to the economic slowdown brought by the government. You want to escape by insulting north Indians."

Santosh Kumar Gangwar

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said in a tweet that such comments were laughable and added that an apology should be tendered to the nation.

Inept handling of economy, says Swamy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy, who has often criticised the government's economic policies, believes only people with a solid grounding in macroeconomics can pull the economy out of its current tailspin.

Dr. Swamy has come out with a book in which he takes a critical look at various aspects of the Indian economy.

Today, the economy suffers from clueless economic stewardship, cloaked in spin, and media management, while the economy is debilitated by serious multiple structural flaws that make this current slowdown unlike any other we have experienced in India since 1947, he writes in *"Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy."*

He also opines that the slowing of inflation is not an achievement in the absence of robust demand signals and weak purchasing power among the masses. It is a form of deflation, he writes.

In the book, he is also critical of the UPA governments (2004-2014), saying it had some of the most senior Ministers committing gigantic corruption.

Comparing Narendra Modi with his predecessor Manmohan Singh, Dr. Swamy says, "He is the exact opposite of Dr. Singh. He is not the person of letters, and one who has an unstudied familiarity with microeconomics but not macroeconomics."

Denying visa to journalists now 'routine': Shahidul Alam

I am being targeted for comments on Kashmir, he says

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Denying visas to journalists has become "routine" in the subcontinent, particularly India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, says Bangladeshi photographer Shahidul Alam, who was denied a visa to travel to Delhi for an event last week at the British Council.

Mr. Alam, who was arrested in 2018 for giving interviews that were critical of the Bangladesh government's treatment of student protesters, says he appears to have run into trouble in India over his comments about human rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hostility towards media

"It is commonly known that anyone asking for a journalistic visa would be given a hard time by Pakistan, India or Bangladesh. It is imperative that nations that call themselves democracies stop being so hostile to the media. It is up to all of us to hold our governments accountable, and a free and unfettered media is the best chance we have of establishing some form of accountability," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Alam was due to attend an art festival programme called 'Serendipity' organised at the British Council in Delhi, and eventually made his appearance via Skype.

While he said he had "no way of telling whether there were political reasons" for the visa denial, he pointed to other colleagues who had applied for and received multiple-entry visas, in far less time. Mr. Alam had been granted a visa to India when he won a journalistic award in Mumbai earlier this year, but showed correspondence to establish that even that had been a short-entry visa issued hours before his flight, with much difficulty.

Shahidul Alam

Different yardstick

"I have no way of telling whether there were political reasons [for the visa denial], but others from my office have applied for and received one-year multiple-entry visas in less time. I provided all the information needed and had fulfilled all the necessary requirements."

He said he had noticed that since he had made comments about "human rights abuses in Kashmir", he had received comments on social media that accused him of being "anti-Indian".

According to his documents, Mr. Alam had applied on August 27 for the visa at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, which was due to be processed in normal course.

On September 5, when he went to collect his passport, however, he was told his visa was denied.

When asked, the Ministry of External Affairs said it was not possible to give reasons for each visa that is not granted. "No country does that," said an official aware of the case of Mr. Alam, adding that the "application was under process as per established procedures".

Organisers of the 'Serendipity festival' said the event Mr. Alam had been invited to attend had artists from several other countries including Sri Lanka and Nepal.

"Of all the people we invited, only Mr. Shahidul Alam's visa was denied," said an organiser who did not want to be identified, and said they hoped he could attend another event later this year.

The British High Commission declined to comment, and said the British Council was a "venue partner".

"When he was incarcerated, people around the world, and so many from India, had protested his imprisonment...it is ironic that he was denied the opportunity to come and speak here in person," the organiser said.

Mr. Alam was nominated Time Magazine's person of the year last year, after spending more than 100 days in jail for having "live-streamed" a protest by student activists demanding road safety reforms.

Book traces Thackerays' origin to Bihar

It also details differences in the style of rival cousins Raj and Uddhav

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

A new book on the Thackeray cousins, Raj and Uddhav, reveals that much in contradiction to the anti-north Indian political rhetoric deployed by both the Shiv Sena and the Maharashtra Navanirman Sena (MNS), the patriarch of the family and father of Shiv Sena founder, Balasaheb Thackeray, 'Prahodhankar' Keshav Sitaram Thackeray, traced the family's origins to Bihar.

Ironic twist

The book, *The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas* (Penguin Random House), by journalist Dhaval Kulkarni makes this point fairly early on, quoting 'Prabhodhankar' Thackeray's own book, *Gramnyancha Sadyanta Itihas Arhat Nokarshahiche Bande* ('A History of Village Disputes or Rebellion of the Bureaucracy').

In focus: The book is one of the first to look at the third generation of the Thackerays. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT/ FILE PHOTO

The book unequivocally states that the Chandraseniya Kayastha Prabhu (CKP) community, to which the Thackerays belong, moved out of ancient Magadha (in present-day Bihar) after Mahpadma Nanda, in the third or fourth century BC, deployed usury with regard to his subjects. The community migrated out of Magadha and "earned its living as warriors and scribes". The anti-migrant political rhetoric of the Shiv Sena and the MNS therefore has a piquant and ironic twist.

This is not the only interesting thing in the book, which is one the first to look at the third generation of Thackerays in public life. According to it, the seeds of competition between the cousins were sown in December 1993, when Raj Thackeray had organised a *morcha* (rally) of unemployed youth in front of the Maharashtra Assembly in its winter home in Nagpur. "It was evident that the Nagpur *morcha* would be huge. A night before the *morcha*, Raj got a call from Matoshree (the Thackeray homestead), asking him to ensure that Uddhav too got to speak at the public meeting. Raj, who was staying at the Hotel Centre Point in Nagpur, was disturbed as he felt Uddhav wanted a share of the credit," Mr. Kulkarni quotes an unnamed former close associate of the family as saying.

Rivalry on court

The book also details the differences in the style and approach of the two cousins, especially through an example of a badminton match played by both in 1997, where Uddhav, while playing with his cousin and his associates, fell down and was laughed at. "He [Uddhav] did not say anything then, but stopped coming to play from the next day onwards.

He, however, enrolled for classes at Bandra's MIG club and soon attained a commendable mastery over the game," the book quotes a friend of Raj Thackeray as saying.

Team to visit U.S. ahead of Modi's UNGA address

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A delegation of politicians and foreign policy experts will visit the U.S. on September 17, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit there to address the United Nations General Assembly on September 27.

The delegation includes Congress leaders Manish Tewari and Jaiveer Shergill, BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi.

Mr. Shergill said the delegation will participate in discussions on Indo-U.S. relations and other international issues.

APPEAL

I, **Dhanush aged 6 years** need your support to bring a new hope to my life. I suffer from Replaced Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and require **Rs. 12,00,000/-** towards Allogenic Bone marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai **will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D./NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque)**

All Correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324.** E-mail ID: **womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: **www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org**

Dhanush

ELSEWHERE

Tunisia holds its second free presidential poll

TUNIS

Tunisians cast their ballots in the country's second democratic presidential election since the 2011 Arab Spring, choosing among 26 candidates for a leader who can safeguard its young democracy and tackle its economic despair. AP

Tropical storm lashes rain on hurricane-hit Bahamas

MIAMI

Tropical Storm Humberto lashed the Bahamas with rain and wind on Saturday, slowing down relief efforts in the wake of the devastation wrought less than two weeks ago by Hurricane Dorian, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. AFP

2,000 foetal remains found at doctor's home

JOLIET

More than 2,000 medically preserved foetal remains have been found at the Illinois home of Dr. Ulrich Klopfer, a former Indiana abortion clinic doctor who died last week, authorities said. The clinic closed after the State revoked the clinic's license in 2015. AP

Iran rejects U.S. charge that it was behind attacks on Saudi oil plants

Tehran says U.S. bases, aircraft carriers in the region are within its missiles' range

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iran dismissed accusations by the United States that it was behind attacks on Saudi oil plants that risk disrupting global energy supplies and warned on Sunday that U.S. bases and aircraft carriers in the region were in range of its missiles.

Yemen's Houthi group claimed responsibility for Saturday's attacks that knocked out more than half of Saudi oil output or more than 5% of global supply, but U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the assault was the work of Iran, a Houthi ally.

'Oil price may rise'

The drone strikes on plants in the heartland of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, including the world's biggest petroleum processing facility, were expected to send oil prices up $3-$5 per barrel on Monday as tensions rise in the West Asia.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi, speaking on state TV, dismissed the U.S. allegation as "pointless". A senior Revolutionary Guards commander warned that the Islamic Republic was ready for "full-fledged" war.

"Everybody should know that all American bases and their aircraft carriers in a distance of up to 2,000 km around Iran are within the range of our missiles," the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted commander Amirali Hajizadeh as saying.

State oil giant Saudi Aramco said the attack cut output by 5.7 million barrels per day, about half the kingdom's production, at a time when Aramco is trying to ready itself for what is expected to be the world's largest share sale.

Aramco gave no timeline for output resumption but said early on Sunday it would give a progress update in around 48 hours. A source close to the matter told Reuters the return to full oil capacity could take "weeks, not days".

Traders and analysts said crude may spike to as high as $100 if Riyadh fails to quickly bring back supply.

The kingdom, the world's top oil exporter, ships more than 7 million barrels of oil to global destinations every day.

Riyadh said it would compensate for the loss by drawing on reserves which stood at 188 million barrels in June.

Saudi ready to act

Mr. Pompeo said there was no evidence the attack came from Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition has been battling the Houthis for over four years in a conflict widely seen as a proxy war between rivals Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shi'ite Iran.

Riyadh has accused Iran and its proxies of being behind previous attacks on oil pumping stations and the Shaybah oilfield, charges Tehran denies.

White House adviser Kellyanne Conway said the attacks "did not help" prospects for a meeting between the two leaders during the United Nations General Assembly this month but did not rule out the possibility. "I'll allow the President (Trump) to announce a meeting or a non-meeting."

Crude shock: Smoke emanating from the Aramco facility in the eastern city of Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia. ▪REUTERS

Hong Kong protesters call on U.K. to protect them from China

Police fire tear gas, water cannon to disperse demonstrators

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Pro-democracy protesters rallied outside Britain's consulate in Hong Kong on Sunday, urging London to do more to protect its former colonial subjects and ramp up pressure on Beijing over sliding freedoms.

Hundreds of demonstrators sang *God Save the Queen* and *Rule Britannia* outside the consulate, waving the Union Jack as well as Hong Kong's colonial-era flags.

The protest came as another large rally made its way through the city streets on Sunday afternoon in defiance of a ban by police, who warned the gathering was illegal.

"We have a right to go to protests, to the streets, and we have to voice our demands to the government," a secondary school student at the rally who gave his name as Alvin, said.

But the rally descended into violence when small groups of hardcore activists – known within the movement as "braves" – tried to attack the city's main government complex. Police fired tear gas and deployed water cannon trucks after Molotov cocktails and rocks were thrown over security barriers surrounding the complex, which has become a frequent flashpoint in the ongoing protests.

As evening set in, protesters retreated, chased by riot officers and water cannon firing blue-dyed water.

The once-stable international hub has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies calling for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability.

The movement is the biggest challenge to China's rule since the city was handed back by Britain in 1997 and shows no sign of ending, with local leaders and Beijing taking a hard line. Under a deal signed with Britain ahead of the city's handover to China, Hong Kong is allowed to keep its unique freedoms for 50 years.

Democracy activists accuse Beijing of reneging on those promises by tightening political control over the territory and refusing calls for universal suffrage.

Fire and fury: A protester catches fire while trying to throw Molotov cocktail over the barricades in Hong Kong. ▪REUTERS

Hulk-inspired Boris says he will get U.K. out of EU

'Is the EU supposed to be scared by this?'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson insisted on Sunday that "huge" progress was being made in Brexit talks and declared Britain would break out of the European Union just like the comic book hero "The Incredible Hulk".

The Conservative leader made the comments ahead of meetings with European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker and EU negotiator Michel Barnier in Luxembourg on Monday.

Mr. Johnson told the *Mail on Sunday* he was "very confident" of getting a divorce deal at an EU summit on October 17, in time for Brexit on October 31.

In an odd analogy, he compared Britain to the Marvel Comics character Hulk – the destructive alter ego of scientist Bruce Banner who turns into the ferocious green giant when enraged or stressed.

"The madder Hulk gets, the stronger Hulk gets and he always escaped, no matter how tightly bound in he seemed to be – and that is the case for this country," he said.

But Mr. Johnson is facing strong opposition in Parliament to his threat to leave the EU without a deal on October 31 if his negotiations fail.

Many of the rebels are on his own side and on Saturday night, one of his Conservative MPs defected to the pro-European Liberal Democrats.

Former Universities Minister Sam Gyimah, who briefly ran against Mr. Johnson for the party leadership, condemned him for "veering towards populism".

The Lib Dems, who now have 18 MPs in the 650-seat House of Commons, on Sunday voted at their party conference to reverse Brexit if they ever won a majority in Parliament.

'Infantile comparison'

His comparison with Hulk drew derision from Guy Verhofstadt, Brexit coordinator for the European Parliament.

"Even to Trumpian standards the Hulk comparison is infantile. Is the EU supposed to be scared by this? The British public impressed?" he tweeted.

Boris Johnson

Israel approves new settlement in West Bank on the eve of polls

Netanyahu seeks to boost turnout among his right-wing base

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government approved a new settlement in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, his office said, just two days ahead of a general election.

The approval came as Mr. Netanyahu and his main opponent Benny Gantz sought to rally supporters, with final rallies planned for Sunday evening.

Mr. Netanyahu is seeking to boost turnout among his right-wing base, and he has made a flurry of announcements in recent days that could boost turnout.

On Sunday, the Cabinet agreed to turn the wildcat settlement of Mevoot Yericho in the Jordan Valley into an official settlement, the premier's office said.

All settlements are viewed as illegal under international law, but Israel distinguishes between those it has approved and those it has not. Around 30 families live in the outpost, which was established in 1999.

Israeli settlers regularly set up caravan homes at sites in the West Bank with the hope of eventually gaining government approval as a settlement, which has repeatedly occurred.

The latest approval follows Mr. Netanyahu's pledge last week to annex the Jordan Valley, which amounts to one-third of the West Bank, if he wins elections.

South African emissaries to calm xenophobia fears

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has sent high-ranking emissaries on a mission to reassure African countries after a wave of xenophobic attacks, the presidency said on Sunday.

At least 12 people have been killed in the surge of mob violence targeting foreign-owned businesses and homes, mainly in and around Johannesburg since the start of the month.

Hundreds of economic migrants from neighbouring Zimbabwe and Mozambique have fled to shelters and Nigeria has flown 600 of its citizens back home after they were targeted in the violence.

The mission, led by former Minister Jeff Radebe, left South Africa on Saturday and will visit Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, DR Congo and Zambia, the presidency said.

Mr. Ramaphosa was jeered at on Saturday during his speech at Zimbabwe ex-leader Robert Mugabe's funeral in Harare before he apologised for the attacks, which have been prompted by unemployment and poverty.

Uproar after Malala seeks UN help for Kashmiri girls

Malala Yousafzai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai has urged the UN to work towards peace in Kashmir and help children in the Valley get back to their schools.

Taking to Twitter, Ms. Malala, 22, said she was deeply concerned about reports that Kashmiri students "have not been able to attend schools for more than 40 days" and "about girls who are afraid to leave their homes".

Ms. Malala's remarks drew criticism from Indian members, including politicians.

"Sincere request to the Nobel winner to spend some time speaking with the minorities of Pakistan. To speak against the forceful conversation & persecution of the minority girls in her own country!" BJP leader Shobha Karandlaje said in a tweet.

For expelled Jews, a Berlin trip may help heal hearts

A programme in place since 1970 has successfully brought Holocaust survivors on one-week trip to Germany

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Berlin was the last place Helga Melmed had expected to see again.

She was 14 when the Nazis forced her and her family onto a train from their home in the German capital to the Jewish ghetto in Lodz, Poland, in 1941.

That started a gruesome odyssey that later saw her imprisoned at Auschwitz and Neuengamme outside Hamburg before she was finally freed by British soldiers in 1945 from Bergen-Belsen in northern Germany, a 46-pound walking skeleton.

For years, she never considered returning to Germany until she was invited on a trip by the city of her birth, in a reconciliation programme meant to help mend ties with former Berliners who had been forced out by the Nazis.

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, the programme has successfully brought people like Melmed on one-week trips to Berlin to reacquaint themselves with the city. Some 35,000 people have accepted the invitation since it was first issued in 1969, and while the numbers are dwindling a few new participants still come every year.

"I thought I'd never come back," Ms. Melmed, 91, who emigrated to the U.S. via Sweden after the war, told in an interview.

The "invitation programme for former refugees" has brought back primarily Jewish emigrants who fled the Nazis, or those like Ms. Melmed who survived their machinery of genocide.

On Wednesday, she and other former programme participants were invited to Berlin City Hall to celebrate the half-century anniversary.

At a ceremony mayor Michael Mueller thanked them for coming back despite all they suffered at the hands of the Germans.

"Many people followed our invitation, people who had lost everything they loved," he said. "I want to express my strong gratitude to you for putting your trust in us."

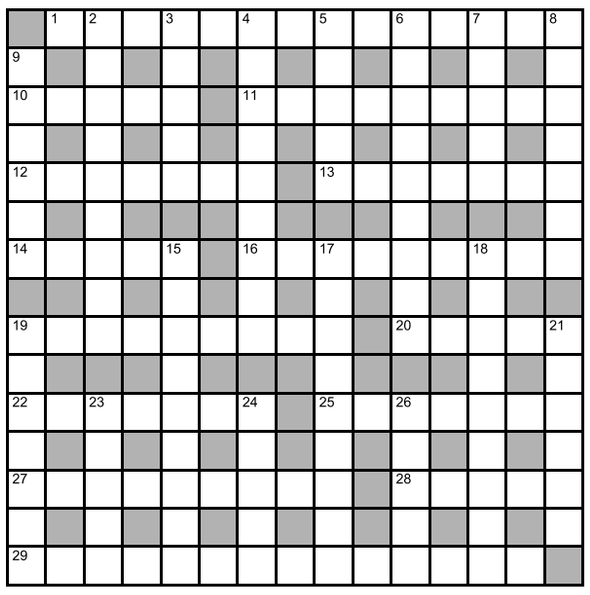
Despite scepticism at the time that anyone persecuted by the Nazis would want to return, in 1970 one year after the programme's launch there was already a waiting list of 10,000 former Berliners who wanted to come back for a visit.

More than 100 other German cities and towns have instituted similar programmes.

Helga Melmed

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12731

(set by Arden)



ACROSS

1 Fixed in pole, shifted to ancient city (14)

10 Queen almost returned to the country (5)

11 Claims missile lost direction, but he is loaded (9)

12 Root of English drinks originally (7)

13 Rent by day, admit it's a disappointment (7)

14 A dolt's back, all alone (5)

16 Return transport, remain making sandwich (9)

19 Transported door with key (9)

20 Walk is allowed (5)

22 Come back with final words and broken toes (7)

25 Cutter's home is in semi-circle (7)

27 Random search goes through, but it's capital (9)

28 Correct, head out to slander (5)

29 Dame Fonteyn free to take to a period of penance (3,2,9)

DOWN

2 Red fort, taking along a Church gallery (5,4)

3 Let girl come in, OK? It will be swell! (5)

4 A correct signal to take drug, first course will relieve pain (9)

5 It's part of Alpine county, rolling hills (5)

6 Strange thing, will come down at dusk (9)

7 Terrace becomes quiet at ten (5)

8 Soul of a city is church (7)

9 Imagine one away breaking wartime code (6)

15 Standard workers for hoisting the tricolour (9)

17 Not good to make money on sport (9)

18 Middle finger is not used for eating (9)

19 Decked out, stole finally (7)

21 Train, train one to get capital (6)

23 Soft, distasteful and fussy (5)

24 Put up before court (5)

26 Atlantic has massive ridge in the middle (5)

SUDOKU

		6		3	8			
5	1		7		2			
3					1	4	7	
2						1		
8								6
		9						2
	6	4	1					7
			8		7		4	3
			6	5		9		

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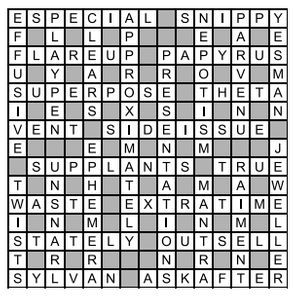
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12730



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	3	9	2	4	8	5	1
8	2	1	5	6	7	4	3	9
5	4	9	8	1	3	6	7	2
2	3	8	6	4	1	7	9	5
9	7	6	2	5	8	1	4	3
1	5	4	3	7	9	2	6	8
6	9	2	4	8	5	3	1	7
3	8	7	1	9	6	5	2	4
4	1	5	7	3	2	9	8	6

FAITH

Gunas lead to actions

In the 14th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna describes the qualities of sattva, rajas and tamas, and says one of them could be the predominant quality in a person. A person's next birth is determined depending upon which quality predominates in him at the time of his death, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. If sattva guna is the dominant quality at the time of death, then he is born in a family which has atma jnana in his next birth. In the next birth, he will worship the Lord, and will acquire more of sattva. If rajas is the dominant quality at the time of death, then in the next birth he is born in a family which engages in actions, with a view to attaining certain results. He will then perform more actions to enjoy the fruits thereof. This behaviour keeps repeating. How can such a man experience anything but sorrow? If at the time of death, tamas dominates, then in the next birth, he is born as an animal, or bird or even a piece of vegetation, thereby being devoid of the ability to acquire knowledge. The man with sattva guna, in his next birth is born in a family whose members have jnana, and he too moves higher up getting closer to the state of being a sthitapragnya. He eventually attains liberation. The man with rajas performs tasks to enjoy the results, and he reaches svarga, is reborn, and again dies and so the cycle repeats in his case. The man with tamas keeps moving lower down, until he is born not even as an animal, but as a lower form of life, like an insect or worm or a blade of grass.

Lord Krishna says that the person who understands that it is the gunas which make us perform acts, will attain His state. In other words, when one knows that the gunas are the motivators to action, then one is released from repeated births and deaths.

ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Q. I have opened a capital gains account with a balance of ₹20 lakh. A major part of this would go to my builder who will be handing over the possession of our apartment shortly. Please let me know if the income tax authorities will allow me to use the balance only for interior wood work, false roofing or also for electrical appliances.

SVS MANI

A. As per section 54, the proceeds of capital gains are to be used for purchase or construction of house property. Such proceeds, in your case, deposited in the capital gains scheme account are to be utilised for payment to the builder and for such other expenses to make the house habitable and not for other expenses. In casethe amount is not fully utilised, then the balance is to be treated as long-term capital gains in the year of possession of the property or at the end of three years whichever is earlier.

It is to be noted that the amount deposited in the account is to be utilised in the aforementioned manner within three years from the date of transfer of the original asset.

Q. I am an NRI and have invested ₹2 crore in mutual funds (MFs). If I become a resident Indian and opt for monthly dividend option with a return of 10%, what will be the tax amount that will be deducted from my monthly dividend income. Apart from this, is there any other tax I need to pay to the Government of India?

S. RAMANATHAN

A. Dividend received from registered mutual funds are exempt from income tax. However, redemption/sale of mutual fund units attract income tax in the following manner; for equity-oriented mutual funds, redemption within one year from purchase is treated as short term capital gains and tax is payable at 15% on such gains plus cess and surcharge, if applicable; in case the said nature of funds are redeemed post one year, it is treated as long-term capital gains and tax is payable at 10% on such gain plus cess and surcharge, if applicable if the quantum of such gain/s exceed ₹1 lakh.

For debt mutual funds, on redemption within two years, tax is payable as per income slabs for individuals/senior citizens/ super senior citizens on such gains plus cess and surcharge, if applicable. On redemption post two years, tax is payable at 20% on such gains plus cess and surcharge, if applicable

Q. I have been an NRI for the past 28 years and returned for good over two years ago. What's my NRI/RNOR status?

VIJAYAKRISHNAN

A. For determination of your residential status in a particular financial year, the first criterion would be to calculate the number of days you were in India in a particular year. If it exceeds 182 days in all, you become a resident for that year. The next step would be determine the type of resident, whether you qualify to be a resident but ordinarily resident (ROR). You must have been a resident of India for at least two out of ten immediately previous years and have stayed in India for at least 730 days in immediately seven preceding years. If you fail in anyone of the two conditions, then you will be resident but not ordinarily resident (RNOR).

On the taxability of income, if you are a resident/ROR, income earned by you from anywhere in the world is taxable in India subject to double taxation avoidance agreement provisions and if you are a RNOR, only those incomes earned by you which are either received or accrued in India are taxable in India

(The author is partner GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

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Watch your WALLET!

Mental accounting imposes discipline on the manner of your spending

VIDYA BALA

When I caught up with some friends, a curious discussion on money and savings came up. I asked them how they treated their money – whether as a big pile and spend from that or bucket them into sources and spends. One friend said, "cash in, cash out and if lucky, some savings." Another friend said, the salary is usually for household expenses and EMI. The rental income is set aside as an investment for daughter's education. If you did the latter, you may be engaging in the interesting activity of mental accounting.

Instead of treating all money as purposeless blobs that transit through your account, if you separate your pool of money into buckets, either based on the source of the money or what you intend to do with it, you are lending purpose to the unit of money. In the world of savings and investments, this can be a smart thing to do.

Spending limits

Let us look at the benefits of mental accounting when it comes to spending. In the days when credit or debit cards were not available, you may have seen your father or grandfather put money into neat covers and write 'rent,' 'milk and vegetables,' 'electricity' and a handsome ₹100 for emergencies. This mental accounting imposes discipline on how we spend, and more importantly, provides a tremendous mental reward system when you actually save anything kept for any of these buckets. It encourages you to save, even if it is to reward yourself with some other purchase.

While your spending today happens through cards or UPI, you can still use apps to fix a limit and keep track of your spending – category-wise (clothes, entertainment, food etc.). It is no different from tracking your mobile data usage after fixing the limit.

If you are a parent with a teenager or a college going kid, this could be a great way to start teaching budgeting and the need to save; giving them some incentive for saving. Needless to say, you could do with the same discipline too!

A far more significant benefit of mental accounting, if used well, happens in investing. Three things happen when you invest with goals in mind: one, you know how much you need to save and fine-tune your savings, you know when you need to achieve it and most importantly, you know what financial products to choose, to save for the goal. Most of you go to your adviser or relationship manager saying you have some surplus and want to invest. You seldom have an idea on what you will use it for (here you treat money as a common pool), or when you will need it. Let us suppose you are sold a money-back policy. Three years hence, you are short of money to pay the hefty fee demanded by your child's education institution and want to surrender the policy. You are told you will be given just 30% of the premium paid, excluding the first year. That essentially means you lose out even the money you paid as premium besides the fact that the money would not help you meet the immediate financial goal. So, what went wrong? You did not do the mental accounting of segregating the purposes for which you were investing. If you had done this, the purpose would have had an end date. If you knew this end date, then you would have chosen the right investment product and would have got the money with some returns (without deep discounts or losses) when you needed it. If you knew your medium-term goal was to get admission in a premium school for your child in 2-3 years, then you would have an idea on how much is needed and you could have followed up with saving more.

Also, the question of locking it into long-term insurance products or high-risk products and losing money or getting a poor deal would not even arise. For example, in this scenario, I'd simply tell you to go with low-risk deposits or fixed income product, since you have no leeway to go for high risk or long-term products. This is the key 'make or break' point for your financial goals and wealth building. Having no goal often leads to wrong choice of products.

The other big advantage with mental accounting is that it reduces the temptation of digging into your investments for impulse purchases. For example, I knew an investor who was saving diligently for the higher education of his two children. We specifically tagged the portfolio as education portfolio of his son and daughter respectively and tracked them separately. He once told me he opened his portfolios on his app to withdraw ₹12 lakh to buy a new car. But when he saw the 'education' tag screaming at him, he closed it. He postponed his car buying indefinitely. That to me, is the benefit of mental accounting. You stay committed to your goals. Try starting off today with this simple action of segregating the money you get into specific purposes-.See the difference it makes to your life, five years from now.

(The author is co-founder, Redwood Research)

Applying thought

- Separate your pool of money into buckets
- Start teaching budgeting to teenaged or college-going children
- Resist the temptation to make 'impulse' purchases

COVER NOTE: PENSION POLICY

A question of (right) choice

Annuity policies come with an array of options

K NITYA KALYANI

Having decided to buy an annuity policy, you can choose from various options. Before that, let us look at the tax implications.

Up to ₹50,000 per year of your annuity purchase price brings you a tax deduction under Section 80CCC of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. This is over and above the ₹1.5 lakh under Section 80C for life insurance policy premiums, Employee or Public Provident Fund and so on. Any contribution to the National Pension Scheme will also come under this ₹50,000 umbrella.

On the vesting date, you can commute up to a third of the accumulated amount without tax and the balance is applied towards the annuity. The annuity itself, the pension payments you receive after vesting date, are taxable as part of your income. This is important when you plan your post-retirement income flows.

How would you like to receive your annuity is the next decision.

This is a choice you have to make while purchasing the annuity and cannot change.

There are about a dozen options that most life insurance companies offer. The simplest one is annuity for life, which involves annuity payout until your lifetime. This can be on a single life or joint life with your spouse. You can opt for annuity guaranteed for a certain period (5, 10 or 15 years for example) and then for life and the payout will be for the longer of the two. Then, there is annuity of any of the above options with return of purchase price to your nominee. Some firms offer options of a specified portion of your purchase price to return, 50% or 100%, and options where the annuity rises at a specified rate year-on-year, to match rising costs of living. All these choices impact the quantum of your annuity.

Long innings: Purchase price paid towards an annuity includes a risk premium for longevity. ▪ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

- Up to ₹50,000 per year of annuity purchase price brings you tax deduction under Section 80CCC
- This is over and above the ₹1.5 lakh under Section 80C for life insurance premiums

Immediate annuity

A 45-year-old would pay ₹6 lakh or so for an immediate annuity of ₹43,000 a year for his lifetime.

Should he want a guaranteed pension for 20 years and then for a lifetime, the purchase price would be a bit higher at ₹6.5 lakh. With return of purchase price, an annuity for life costs ₹7 lakh approximately. In case of a critical illness or an accident leading to permanent disability, your annuity policy can come to your rescue by way of return of purchase price.

This is a rider, an additional cover you have to buy at the inception of the policy.

These optional extras differ by company and policy and can cover accidental death and dismemberment, waiver of premium, etc.

One important decision you have to make is whether you want a unit-linked annuity. In a linked annuity, your premium over the years is invested in capital markets and the corpus that results on the vesting date will be your purchase price. So, your capital available to invest in an annuity is subject to market risk, something you have to be aware of.

One question that comes up in the mind when you calculate the 'return' rate on an annuity is, even a bank fixed deposit appears better. Maybe, but don't forget that the premium or purchase price you pay towards an annuity includes a risk premium for longevity.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

DO IT YOURSELF: MOTOR INSURANCE

Lapsed bike insurance? Follow these steps

Compare rates and buy the policy online

RAJALAKSHMI NIRMAL

Across the country, there has been a mad rush to renew lapsed insurance policies by motorists, thanks to the new Motor Vehicles Act that has imposed heftier fines for those driving uninsured vehicles. Apart from the fine, there are other reasons why you should renew your lapsed motor insurance policy.

One, if you hit a third-party vehicle and the vehicle is damaged or the person driving it suffers bodily injury or dies and there is a legal proceeding on you, you will have to settle it personally. Note that the liability is unlimited. Further, if you do not renew your policy on time and it has lapsed for more than 90 days, you will be losing the no-claim bonus.

Buying motor insurance online is very simple today. You can either go to the same insurer's website, login with the policy number and renew it or look for a new insurer and take a fresh policy. You can login to the websites of online aggregators such as Policybazaar.com, Coverfox Insurance and Renewbuy.com, and compare the premium rates offered by different insurers.

After you select your bike's manufacturer, model and variant, and the year of registration, and specify the RTO where it was registered, the site will throw up premium rates offered by different insurance companies. With the new-age insurers – Digit and Acko – buying online motor insurance is even simpler, involving just three or four steps. But that said, with traditional players, there is the comfort of a good track record in settlement. If you want to save some money, you can buy just the third-party cover, which is mandatory under the law, instead of a comprehensive cover that includes own damage insurance. A third-party insurance will cover only the legal liability arising out of damage to the property of a third-party or bodily injury/death of the third party.

▪ ISTOCK.COM

Another way to save on premium is to take a lower insured declared value or IDV. This is the market value of a vehicle, less depreciation (depending on the age of the vehicle). Your bike/car will be insured for this value. Note that, on damage to the vehicle, this is the maximum amount the insurer will pay you. The insurance aggregator sites also will give you the option of to go for a lower IDV.

While you will be saving on premium by going for a lower IDV, you may end up paying from your pocket for repair in case of damage to the vehicle if it is under-insured.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH

"In my time, 'The good old days' did not mean 'Yesterday'!"

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank name	Highest Slab	Interest rates (%) 1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.30	7.30
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	8.00	8.35
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.10	7.50	7.00
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	7.25	7.25	6.75
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.00	7.77
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.65	7.40	7.40	7.25
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Indian Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90
Syndicate Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50
Bank of Maharashtra	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50
State Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Andhra Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Union Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.40	6.45
Indian Overseas Bank	6.80	6.60	6.80	6.80
Corporation Bank	6.90	6.80	6.50	6.50
Allahabad Bank	6.75	6.60	6.35	6.35
IDBI Bank	6.95	6.95	6.70	6.60
Central Bank of India	6.55	6.55	6.30	6.30
United Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.45	6.45	6.25
Punjab National Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
UCO Bank	6.50	6.50	6.40	6.25

Bank name	Highest Slab	Interest rates (%) 1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Karnataka Bank	6.90	6.90	6.80	6.80
South Indian Bank	7.30	7.25	7.30	7.00
Federal Bank	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.00
Axis Bank	7.10	7.00	6.85	6.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.00	6.85	7.00	7.00
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.60	6.60
Catholic Syrian Bank	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.50
Yes Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	7.25
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.90	7.10	7.00
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.80	6.75	6.25	6.25
IDFC First Bank	8.00	8.00	7.50	7.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.75
RBL Bank	7.75	7.70	7.50	7.50
Bandhan Bank	7.65	7.35	7.65	7.65
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.90	6.90	6.50	6.50
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.25
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.35	7.35
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.10	7.10	6.75	6.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citi Bank	5.50	5.25	5.50	5.50
Deutsche Bank	7.75	6.25	7.00	7.75
HSBC Bank	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
DBS Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50

FD rates as on 12 September — *Source: paisabazaar.com*

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of lender	Loan amount (₹) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
REPO RATE LINKED LOANS			
	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Punjab National Bank	8.25-8.30	8.25-8.30	8.30-8.35
UCO Bank	8.30-8.40	8.30-8.40	8.30-8.40
United Bank of India	8.15-8.30	8.15	8.15-8.30
Bank of Baroda	8.35-9.35	8.35-9.35	8.35-9.60
Union Bank of India	N.A.	8.25-8.30	8.30-8.35
IDBI Bank	8.30-8.45	8.30-8.45	N.A.
Syndicate Bank	8.25-8.85	8.15-8.85	8.15-8.70
Bank of India	N.A.	8.35-9.25	8.35-9.25
Citi Bank*	8.50-9.35	8.50-9.35	8.50-9.35
MCLR linked loans	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	8.25-8.65	8.50-8.95	8.60-9.10
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.25
Canara Bank	8.40-8.50	8.40-8.60	8.40-8.65
Bank of Baroda	8.40-9.40	8.40-9.40	8.40-9.65
Punjab National Bank	8.50-8.70	8.50-8.70	8.55-8.75
UCO Bank	8.45	8.45-8.55	8.60-8.70
Indian Overseas Bank	8.50	8.60	8.75
United Bank of India	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55
Andhra Bank	8.50-8.55	8.50-8.55	8.60-8.65
Punjab & Sind Bank	8.50	8.50	8.50
Syndicate Bank	8.35	8.35	8.35
Union Bank of India	8.45-8.80	8.45-8.80	8.50-9.10
Bank of India	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35
Central Bank of India	8.30	8.30	8.30-8.55
IDBI Bank	8.60-9.20	8.60-9.20	8.90-9.20
Allahabad Bank	8.40-9.40	8.40-9.40	8.45-9.40

Name of lender	Loan amount (₹) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
ICICI Bank	8.80-9.10	8.80-9.20	8.95-9.25
Karnataka Bank	8.90	8.90	9.00
Bandhan Bank	12.41-13.61	12.41-13.61	12.41-13.61
Axis Bank	8.90-10.60	9.05-9.55	9.10-9.55
Yes Bank	9.85-13.00	9.85-13.00	9.85-12.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.60-9.40	8.60-9.40	8.60-9.40
Karur Vysya Bank	8.80-11.55	8.80-11.55	8.80-11.55
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.80	9.80	9.80
HSBC Bank	8.65-9.30	8.65-9.30	8.65-9.30
Standard Chartered	>=9.31	>=9.31	>=9.31
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	10.05	10.05	10.05
Citi Bank	8.90-9.90	8.90-9.90	8.90-9.90
Federal Bank	8.90-8.95	9.00-9.05	9.05-9.10
DBS Bank	<=9.20	<=9.20	<=9.20
TMB	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	8.70	8.70	8.70-9.05
RBL Bank	10.30-12.15	11.65-12.15	11.65-12.15
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
HDFC Ltd.	8.40-9.15	8.75-9.45	8.80-9.50
PNB Housing	9.25-11.50	9.25-11.50	9.25-11.50
Indiabulls Housing	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00
LIC Housing	8.80-9.05	8.95-9.15	9.05-9.15
Hero Housing Finance	>=9.75	>=9.75	>=9.75
Piramal Housing	>=9.00	>=9.00	>=9.00
IIFL	>=10.00	>=10.00	>=10.00
Bajaj Finserv	8.60-11.15	9.05-11.15	9.05-11.15
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00

*Linked to 3-month TBLR

Rates as on 12 September — *Source: paisabazaar.com*

RITU DALMIA: Conquering Italy with *kadhi*

Standing between two cultures, trying to explain one to the other, the chef is now expanding her reach with two restaurants and a catering arm

ANOOTHI VISHAL

Dishes from Cittamani and Spica, and (bottom left) Dalmia with chef Viviana Varese

It is party time at Viva Viviana Varese, a new ristorante by Milan's famous chef Viviana Varese. Sprawled across Italian marketplace Eataly's second floor, with a beauteous view of the iconic Piazza Venticinque Aprile 10, more than 700 guests will walk in and out as the evening progresses, eating dishes prepared by 30 chefs – all of who are Varese's friends and have flown down from various parts of Europe and Asia to pitch in. Eventually, the evening will end with some of these chefs clearing a counter, and dancing at the pass!

For now, however, chef Ritu Dalmia is at the pass, dishing out *kadhi pakori* to sober revellers, who carefully hold spoons of the silken yoghurt sauce to their tongues and pronounce it the most elegant Indian food Milan has ever tasted. But she is, in fact, feeding much more than *kadhi* to Italy. She is building a veritable restaurant empire there – in a country that she has always so closely identified with ever since she visited it as a 20-year-old handling her father's marble business.

Ahead of her time

In the early 1990s, Dalmia, who'd always been interested in cooking, shook off the ties of the family business. She took up a short cooking course at the Case Vecchie school run by the formidable Anna Tasca Lanza, who specialised in Sicilian gastronomy. Then she returned to Delhi to open Mezza Luna, an ahead-of-its-time Italian restaurant in Hauz Khas Village, in 1993. This was much before India had learnt to appreciate *al dente*, and it inevitably failed.

But Dalmia did not give up, moving to London for a few years, before coming back to open Diva in 2000.

That was a watershed moment for Indian standalone restaurants. Along with Rahul Akerkar's Indigo (1999) and AD Singh's Olive (2001), Diva would usher in a new era of cosmopolitan gastronomy. Dalmia's Italian – where ingredients, textures, freshness and flavours were not compromised on or bastardised – found acclaim and acceptance, paving the way for Italian food in India.

In many ways what Dalmia is doing in Milan, the least gastronomically-conservative of all Italian cities, is the mirror opposite of what she did in Delhi. If the idea then was to bring Italy in all its uncompromised flavours to India, now the idea is to take India in all its untrammelled glory to Italy. This is a chef and restaurateur who stands firmly between two cultures, lives between two cities (Delhi and Milan), and tries to explain one to the other.

A concerted expansion

In October 2016, industrialist Analjit Singh bought a majority 51% stake in Dalmia's company, Riga Foods. The expansion in Milan is a result of this funding, and has enabled the chef to not just open Cittamani, a modern Indian restaurant that turned two this year, but also Spica earlier this year. At the latter, the global food is inspired by her travels, from South America and Thailand to Mumbai, and where the octopus ceviche is as effortlessly done as the *keema pao*. Then, there is a 20% investment Riga Foods has made in Viva, which has enabled Dalmia to partner with kindred creative soul, Varese. "All these restaurants under one umbrella means I will also have a bigger base for my catering business in Europe," she points out, always a savvy Marwari, as she is fond of calling herself.

Catering is clearly a mainstay of the empire she is building. Any major Indian wedding or event in Italy is incomplete without her gourmet blessings. Her top clients include business families such as the Ambanis as well as a host of celebrities like Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, whose wedding she catered. However, she also seems to be extending the scope of the business.

At the mega Google annual conference this year, inside the exclusive Sicilian Verdura Resort, she catered to global A-listers that ostensibly ranged from top CEOs to actors like Tom Cruise to Coldplay's Chris Martin, whose performance supposedly kicked off the shrouded-in-mystery annual extravaganza. Every vendor was made to sign non disclosure agreements. Dalmia obviously does not share any details, but it is apparent that having a restaurant empire in Milan is going to consolidate this arm of the business and grow it further.

With diversity in her mix

At Cittamani, more conquests are being made. As Dalmia chats with a group of guests who have come for lunch, persuading them to come again that evening for my pop-up of Kayasth Khatirdari, a senior editor from *Corriere della Sera*, the leading liberal paper in Italy, who has dropped in, laughs as he tells me, "I am always amazed by her charisma, at how Ritu is able to seduce everyone!"

It is perhaps an innate ability to navigate disparate cultures. In culinary terms, this is more than apparent in the way she dresses up typical Indian flavours and makes them comprehensible to Italians. *Kachori*, after all, could be a variation of the fried, puffed-up pizza *fritta*. As I fail to find suitable plantain to make a mock fish dish, she suggests topinambour, the tuber of the Jerusalem artichokes that has a similar texture. It works perfectly. A chef without this ability to understand deeply diverse cultures and cuisines equally cannot hope to pull off this task of introducing one to the other, I muse.

In the meeting ground of diverse cultures, there exists a potential, creative and business, that Dalmia is tapping.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Witness to the past The underground wall at the Maulana Azad Medical College ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

The mystique behind the wall

Interest in the reign of Mughal rulers has once again ignited after the latest discovery at Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College

R.V. SMITH

The discovery of a 19th century wall below the mortuary of the Maulana Azad Medical College on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg has led to various conjectures. It was constructed by the British in 1874 for what was then a jail. During the Mughal period, State prisoners were executed there. The head of Dara Shikoh was said to have been thrown nearby on the orders of his brother Aurangzeb, and the headless body buried in the vaults of Humayun's Tomb.

Why was the *Phansi Ghar*, or hanging house, situated at this spot? Probably because it was on the outskirts of the city, as Shahjahanabad's limits ended at Delhi Gate. Two sons and a grandson of Bahadurshah Zafar were also executed opposite the jail at the Khooni Darwaza.

Their bodies were thrown to rot in front of the Northbrook Fountain in Chandni Chowk.

In the early 20th century...

The alleged conspirators of the 1912 Hardinge Bomb Case - Master Amirchand, Master Awadh Behari, Basant Sanyal, and Lala Hanwant Sahai - were also incarcerated here. While the first three were hanged (Sanyal in Lahore), Hanwant Sahai was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Andamans, his sentence later commuted to a jail term of seven years.

I met Lalaji in 1966 at his dingy abode in Chandni Chowk when he was an ailing octogenarian. He did not disclose the name of the freedom fighter who actually threw the bomb at Charles Hardinge when he was on his way in a State procession to the Red Fort.

The then Viceroy escaped death, though his elephant-keeper (mahout) was killed and he himself wounded.

Travellers on their way to Nizamuddin used to say that after the execution in early 1930s of Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Sukhdev – who were also probably kept at the British prison earlier–they often heard voices of the condemned prisoners from the jail.

Stories to tell

Samuel Joseph, who had found employment in the Agra Jail about the year 1892, had an interesting story to tell.

After being reprimanded by his mother and asked to find a job, a kind hearted sentry took Joseph to the jailor. He was told to report for duty the next day.

Joseph himself rose to become a jailor over the years. He later served in the Delhi Central Jail and also in a number of UP towns, where he once had the notorious Sultana Daku as his prisoner. He even earned a commendation medal from the British government.

According Joseph, the Delhi jail was actually built on the site of an inn or sarai, constructed by Sheikh Farid Khan, treasurer of Jahangir. Samuel, my grandfather Lazarus' older brother, died in 1952. He used to say that Farid Khan was also instrumental in reclaiming land opposite the Agra Cathedral. This land belonged to the "Father of Mughal Christianity", the Armenian Khwaja Zulquarnain. The plot was initially used as the city prison; the British made it the Central Jail. The vast area has been converted into Sanjay Place shopping centre.

As for the sarai built by Farid Khan, it came up on the site of an inn of Firozshah Tughlak's time. Though the Maulana Azad Medical College has been built there now, Bhuri Bhatyari-ki-Masjid of the Tughlak period still exists in a corner. It is said to be related to the Bhuri Bhatiyari-ka-Mahal near Karol Bagh, which has now almost disappeared, except for a ruined gateway.

Daurani-Jithani-ka-kuan (Well of Sisters'-In-Law) that was also a landmarkis untraceable, unless exists filled up on the premises of J.P. Hospital. There were two other wells in the jail, one for condemned prisoners and the other for short-term prisoners , which supplied water for drinking and bathing, when there was no piped water supply.

Perhaps these wells too were filled up with masonry when the hospital was built (next to the erstwhile Irwin Hospital) in an area once covered by vegetable fields and Shahji-ka-Talab or lake, near which Ravana's effigy was burnt before Dussehra celebrations were moved to the Yamuna bank.

This how Time brings about unimaginable changes. But the Khooni Darwaza of Sher Shah's reign, overlooking Maulana Azad Medical College and Hospital mortuary, remains a silent witness to the past.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Images speak

When a new batch of photographers graduates, we get the first rush of creative work

MADHUR TANKHA

Thought provoking Kumbh Mela; a lonely man ▪ NAMAN AGRAWAL, SAHIL MALHOTRA

Whether it is capturing the deep-flowing Ganga, the heartland of Punjab, or gigantic melas where colours are splashed all over as joyous celebration and scantily clad holy men show us the earthen side of our country, the opening of this exhibition at AIFACS gives an insight into the India we don't see much of, in our urbanised lives.

Students of the Raghu Rai Center for Photography in Gurugram went the extra mile for their pictures, traversing long distances on foot or driving in jeeps through the Himalayas. The pictures capture a range of emotions: pain, pathos, joys and elation of humans. Animals: cows, mongrels, owls, are also seen.

One of the most stark images is of a mentally challenged man with grey hair on head and chest, lost to his surroundings and oblivious to even his present state. On his forehead, there appears a gap, possibly a bullet mark? "It looks like a third eye," said an observer.

Twenty-one students were short-listed by Nitin Rai, curator and director of the institute. His father, photographer Raghu Rai, is like a father-figure to the young boys and girls.

"We take them out and allow them to shoot what they like. If they like portraiture we show them specialised work. For landscape I take them personally to different places," says Nitin. Black and white dominates even though colour images like of Sikh men showcasing their strength and speed in rural sports are striking pictures that deserve attention.

Elaborating on his father's principles, Nitin says: "We want our students to capture life spontaneously, candidly. It doesn't matter which camera they choose; their images should be expressive. If there is no expression then all technical skills go waste.

I meet Raghu Rai, who politely tells me: "*Ap dekhiye aram se, ap ko bahut maza ayega*." Half an hour later, he says, "Photographs taken by our students are thoroughly analysed and we figure out where they have gained or faltered. Anyone can become a professional but creative guys are few. Igniting the creative fire is our priority."

In Poroma Roy's image, dogs are sleeping near the ghats, unmindful of the river that is making mighty waves. "This was near Asighat. I have shown the contrast between the dogs that manifest silence and the river that is making a noise," she says. Curiously, Poroma likes capturing operations in hospitals. While this might sound a bit unusual, she has succeeded in showing the agony as well as advancement in surgery. "People with cleft lips were getting treatment at a hospital in Ranchi when I decided to capture them on my lens. Hospitals fascinate me."

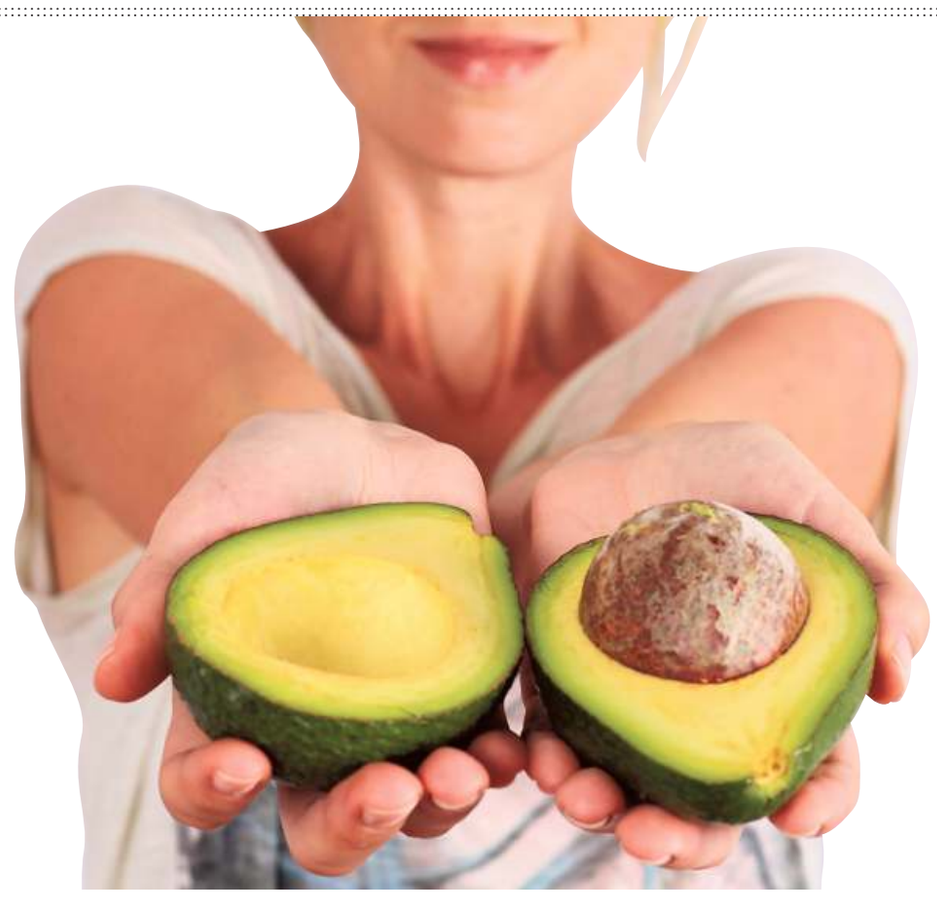
Naman Agrawal, hailing from Allahabad, had fascination for Kumbh Mela since childhood. This motivated him to showcase his skills covering sadhus. "The main ritual is the Shahi Snaan. I had to be careful as there was a deluge of devotees on that day. To make matters worse, few devotees splashed water on my camera. Holy dip was a huge challenge as the crowd of pilgrim was uncontrollable."

The students, after completing a one year diploma, either enter journalism or advertising.

For details raghuraicenterforphotography.com. On view till September 19th.

So what is a superfood really?

If you've nodded your way through several conversations where people gush about the latest nut or berry, and wondered what all the fuss was about, here's a primer for you



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Eat quinoa and you're sorted for protein. Slather avocado on wholegrain toast, and you'll grow into a hipster. Throw seaweed, chia seeds, and kale into a cold-pressed juicer, and you're Gwyneth Paltrow. Pop a few activated almonds and live forever.

All these are leading characters in the superfoods drama. Supposedly full of magical goodness and powerful health-boosting properties, these so-called superfoods are touted as ingredients that keep you super-healthy, provided you eat them regularly, in sufficiently large quantities. You'll have to pay through your nose for some, but, say some dieticians and celebrities, who like to be seen as leading a healthful life, you are then set for life.

Well, no. Like many words that have wormed their way into our food lexicon, a superfood is an idea that is as appealing as it is false. The trouble, of course, is no one really knows what a superfood is.

Worse, there is no clear evidence that any of the foods 'labelled' as such are actually any better than locally grown fruits, vegetables and grains we consume every day as part of a balanced, healthy diet.

In fact, the European Union (EU) has banned the use of the word on products' packaging unless it is backed up by "convincing research" which does not seem to exist. This does not stop food conglomerates from sponsoring research to promote a particular food.

Unregulated marketing...

In India though, the lack of strict food and marketing regulations has ensured that superfoods are "super business", as leading nutritionist and food influencer Rujuta Diwekar puts it. "These foods fly off the shelves as all you are required to do is consume them and not make any lifestyle change... what could be better than that!" she says sarcastically. Rujuta, who has built her reputation on championing the art of what she terms 'uncomplicated' eating, stresses that any food that links people to the culture, climate, and cuisine of the region is a superfood.

"The idea of a superfood is that it is good for people and not profits, and that it is in tune with Nature, soil, water tables, birds, butterflies, and bees. To put it simply, something like kale would be ideal for Europeans in their winter and quinoa is a good staple for certain regions of South America. Not anywhere else."

In their defence, all the foods that have today been accorded this elevated status are legitimate health foods. Avocado is loaded with healthy monounsaturated fats, and grapefruit is a great source of vitamin A and C. But they aren't the only sources. Produce billed as superfoods are berries, greens, whole grains and other natural foods. It is the 'science talk' built around them, partly due to clever marketing, and somewhat due to ongoing dietary research, that has resulted in the rampant exaggeration of their abilities.

For instance, antioxidants found in most of the so-called superfoods are promoted heavily because they are said to 'mop up' cancer-causing free radicals in our body that have the potential to cause inflammation, early internal-body ageing, and even damage our DNA. However, many plant-based foods with colour have antioxidants. For instance, curcumin in turmeric, polyphenols in grapes, and beta carotene in carrots, all have antioxidant properties. As regular healthy people, or those who may have minor deficiencies, we don't need blueberries or acai berries that have travelled many miles.

...And the problem it causes

Dr Maya Adam, Director of Health Education Outreach and Faculty Lead at the Stanford University School of Medicine, says the commercial food industry has today fine-tuned the art of responding to what's trending in terms of consumer demands. "For example, in the 1980s, many people were trying to eliminate fat from their diets and you could see packaged foods everywhere that advertised themselves as low-fat or fat-free. (What they didn't advertise was that they often added a lot of sugar and artificial flavours to make the lack of fat palatable.) Overall, our sugar intake increased so much that we got sick from that – and now, you can find hundreds of products on the supermarket shelf that are advertised as "sugar-free" or "low-sugar". The same has happened with the so-called superfoods."

Dr Adam says people are looking for a 'magic bullet' for their dietary dilemmas, and food manufacturers are capitalising on this demand by providing us with packaged (often imported and sometimes even heavily processed) versions of foods that should probably just be part of our regular diet – in their unprocessed, natural forms. Seconding Rujuta, Dr Adam says: "If avocados are available where you live, they can be a delightful, healthy addition to your salads, your breakfast or your beans and rice! If not, there are probably locally-grown foods that will serve your health just as well."

Ultimately, there is only one dull truth that even nutritionists who are at loggerheads with each other readily agree upon – it is that nutrition science is extraordinarily complex and mysterious. The corollary clearly then is that no single food, no matter how rich in vitamins and antioxidants, can replace a balanced diet combined with regular exercise. Sadly, there isn't any shortcut through that supermarket shelf.

THE BEST IN YOUR BACKYARD

If you can find a weekly farmer's market or fresh vegetable market in your community, you have probably found your superfoods — not one, but many.

Focus on finding the freshest variety of unprocessed, plant-based foods and pairing them with whole grains and some lean sources of protein in a way that delights you.

If you have a place to plant a small kitchen garden, the greens and little plants you grow sans lab-made chemical fertilizers, are also superfoods.

The local fish market is another place to find superfoods.

If you can cook your food at home (most of the time) and flavour it with garlic, ginger, onions and light spices, they are capable of adding joy to your meals. And joy can be a superfood too.

(Inputs from Dr Maya Adam and Rujuta Diwekar)

CORN FACTS

Corn is called maize by most countries; this comes from the Spanish word 'maiz'. It generally has an even number of rows, usually 16, and 800 kernels.

CONVERSATIONS WITH SELF

Think before you speak

How I have allowed myself to be set up

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

TT SRINATH

At immense cost to my sense of self-worth, I have recently come to realise that when I yield to gossip, to hearsay, and rumours and react based on such incomplete information, particularly when it relates to pulling up people, I invariably pass harsh judgement and leave the recipient frustrated and hurt.

Recently, I was given a list of complaints about a colleague of mine by a client. Assuming my client was talking based on neglect of my colleague, I lambasted my colleague and left him quite disheartened.

Another colleague of mine who was present, called me aside and explained the situation as it was and shared verifiable facts.

He pointed out my indiscretion, without blaming me. I realised in pouring venom on my colleague that I had actually cast aspersions on him. All this with insufficient information.

I apologised, but realised the damage was done. The need to seek clarity, confirm with evidence, and clarify with fact, is a lesson I have learnt. Such awareness may help me cause less damage in significant relationships.

The writer is an organisational and behavioural consultant. He can be contacted at ttsrinath@gmail.com

POOCH CAFE

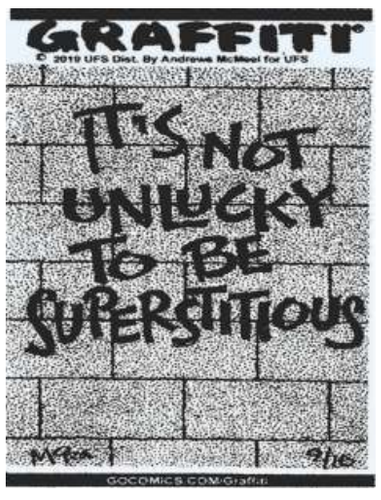
PEANUTS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

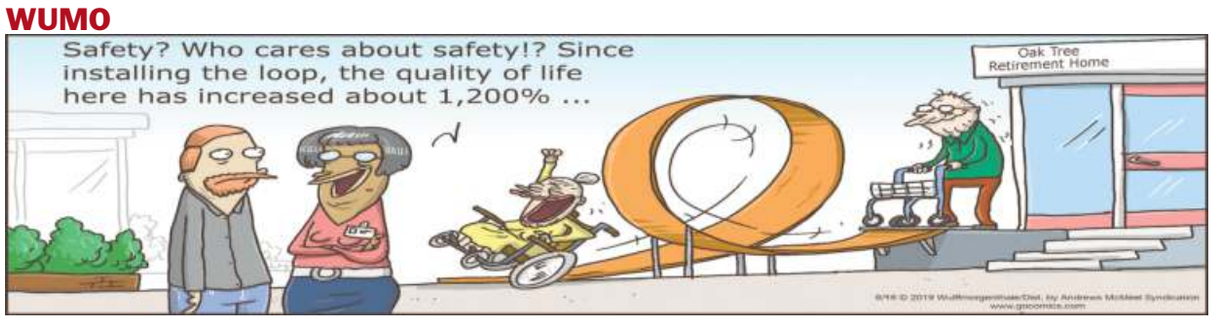
CALVIN AND HOBBES

TIGER

GRAFFITI

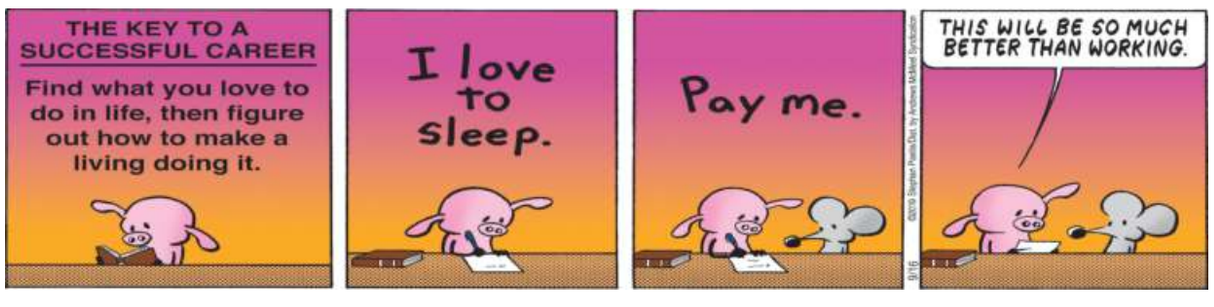


WUMO

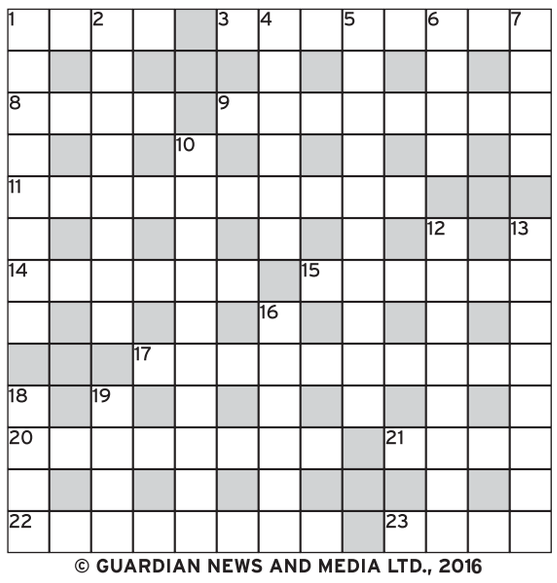


HEALTH CAPSULES

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13175



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Across

1 Sound made by a dog (4)
3 Dropping of flakes (8)
8 Bound (4)
9 Duke of Marlborough's seat at Woodstock (8)
11 Affectedly genteel (5-5)
14 Distinctive uniform (6)
15 Hidden marksman (6)
17 Burly chassis for Shirley Bassey, say? (10)
20 Flat Italian bread made with olive oil (8)
21 Yugoslav marshall, prime minister and president, d. 1980 (4)
22 Wrist ornament (8)
23 Cruel and wicked person (4)

Down

1 Refuge (8)
2 Stay of execution (8)
4 Emma Hamilton's lover, who died in battle on 21 October 1805 (6)
5 Structure for testing aircraft parts by blowing air over them (4,6)
6 Again but differently (4)
7 Compact mass (4)
10 Boat that lifts out of the water at high speeds (10)
12 Organised opposition to authority (8)
13 Woodland plant with yellow flowers in spring (8)
16 Baby's sock-like shoe (6)
18 Crust over a wound (4)
19 Long involved story (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 17, 2019.

Solution No. 13174

W	A	T	E	R	S	O	F	T	E	N	E	R
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Disappointment: The faithful reluctantly make their way out as play is called off. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

Rain has the final say

Series reduced to a two-match affair

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
DHARAMSHALA

Relentless rain forced the abandonment of the first India-South Africa Twenty20 International here on Sunday.

The downpour began two hours before play was scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and the match was officially called off at 7.45 p.m.

There was neither any inspection nor the toss.

The series now stands reduced to a two-match affair, just as in South Africa's previous T20 series here in 2015. The caravan now travels to Mohali for the second match of the series on Wednesday.

Second T20I

- Sept. 18, Mohali, 7 p.m.

...it's 22 and counting for Advani

Cueist par excellence outplays Thway Oo to make it four-in-a-row in the 150-up format

BILLIARDS

R. VENKATNARAYAN
CHENNAI

Pankaj Advani, India's poster boy of cue sports, once again did what he does best – winning a World title.

On Sunday, Advani breezed past local favourite Nay Thway Oo 6-2 in the 150-up format at the IBSF World billiards championship in Mandalay, in what was a repeat of last year's final – the scoreline including.

"It's an incredible feeling," Advani told *The Hindu*. "I am as passionate and as hungry as I was as a teenager," said Advani about his fifth title in the short format of billiards in the last six years.

Advani was in full flow right from the start and, with fluent breaks of 145, 89 and 127, took a 3-0 lead. Oo pulled it back with breaks of 63 and 62, but was forced to watch Advani extend the lead as the Indian secured the next two frames, including a 150 unfinished break. After a reverse in the seventh frame, the Indian scored a 74 to close out the match.

"I felt more confident and played more fluently against Oo. Last year too I had beaten Oo. And after I got through a tough semifinal against Mike Russell [on Saturday], I felt more at ease. Russell is an incredible player and though I won 5-2, it was a much closer contest," Advani said.

Advani, who now boasts of an incredible 22 World titles, attributed the success to his fitness and the deep desire to win.

All in your hands

"More than external factors like in other contact sports, one is fighting his own battle.

"Though there are safety plays and the like where your opponent pins you down, it is all about your own rhythm, your ability and your own hunger which reflects on how you perform," said Advani.

The Bengaluru-based cueist, who has won more World titles in his sport than anyone else, added "every year the competition keeps improving and you need to stay ahead.

"A few years back no one would have thought that someone could win so many titles. Tomorrow someone may well go far ahead of it."

The result:

Pankaj Advani bt Nay Thway Oo (Myn) 6-2 [150(145)-4, 151(89)-66, 150(127)-50(50), 7-150(63,62), 151(50)-69(50), 150(150)-0, 133(64)-150(105), 150(74)-75(63)].

ADVANI'S WORLD CROWNS

- **Billiards-time format** 2018, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2005
- **Billiards-points format** 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2008, 2005
- **Team billiards** | 2014
- **Snooker** | 2017, 2015, 2003
- **Six-red snooker** 2015, 2014
- **Team snooker** | 2018

> You always want to keep wining. It is always special when you hear your National anthem being played, as it did today

SOURCE: PANKAJADVANI.COM

Nabi, Mujeeb star for Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Mohammad Nabi (84 not out) and off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (four for 15) were the architects of Afghanistan's 25-run win over Bangladesh in their tri-series match on Sunday.

After Nabi's knock, which came off 54 balls and contained three fours and seven sixes, took Afghanistan to 164 for six, Mujeeb shot out the hosts for 139. His figures read 4-0-15-4.

Both Bangladesh and Afghanistan had won their respective matches of the tournament against Zimbabwe.

The scores: Afghanistan 164 for six in 20 overs (Mohammad Nabi 84 n.o., Asghar Afghan 40, Mohammad Saifuddin four for 33) bt Bangladesh 139 in 19.5 overs (Mahmudullah 44, Mujeeb Ur Rahman four for 15).

England squares series at Oval; Australia keeps urn

Matthew Wade delays the inevitable with a gutsy century; Broad and Leach scalp four each

THE ASHES

REUTERS
LONDON

Matthew Wade's defiant 117 proved in vain as England bowled Australia out for 263 to win the final Test at The Oval by 135 runs on Sunday and ensure the first drawn Ashes series since 1972.

England had appeared to be on course for a comfortable win when it dismissed Steve Smith for 23, just after lunch, but Wade dug in to post his fourth Test century and Australia, which retained the Ashes, fell short in its bid for a first Test series win in England since 2001.

Chasing a stiff target of 399, Australia lost Marcus Harris, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne in the morning after England had added 16 runs to its overnight score of 313 for eight.

Australia took lunch on 68 for three and its victory chances plummeted further with Smith's dismissal. It was the first time in 11 Test innings against England that he had failed to pass fifty. Smith left the field to a standing ovation from the crowd in recognition of his 774 runs, including a double century and two hundreds, in seven innings.

Wade reached his fifty before Mitchell Marsh perished for 24.

Though Australia captain Tim Paine was trapped lbw by Leach, Wade maintained his concentration and punched the air with delight after reaching his second century of the series.

Pat Cummins departed for nine and Wade's resistance was finally broken when he was stumped off Root.

Nathan Lyon swept Leach low to Root at square leg and Josh Hazlewood chipped his first ball to mid-wicket where Root took a brilliant one-handed catch to spark wild celebrations among the England players.

Happy faces: Root's men are on cloud nine after sharing the series honours. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 294.
Australia — 1st innings: 225.
England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Lyon 20, Joe Denly c Smith b Siddle 94, Joe Root c Smith b Lyon 21, Ben Stokes b Lyon 67, Jonny Bairstow c Smith b Marsh 14, Jos Buttler c Labuschagne b Siddle 47, Sam Curran c Paine b Cummins 17, Chris Woakes c Smith b Marsh 6, Jofra Archer c Paine b Cummins 3, Jack Leach c Hazlewood b Lyon 9, Stuart Broad (not out) 12; Extras (b-7, lb-11, nb-1): 19; Total (in 95.3 overs): 329.
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-87, 3-214, 4-222, 5-249, 6-279, 7-305, 8-305, 9-317.
Australia bowling: Cummins 21-5-67-2, Hazlewood 19-5-57-0, Lyon 24.3-5-69-4, Siddle 13-4-52-2, Mitchell Marsh 11-1-40-2, Labuschagne 7-1-26-0.
Australia — 2nd innings: Marcus Harris b Broad 9, David Warner c Burns b Broad 11, Marnus Labuschagne st. Bairstow b Leach 14, Steve Smith c Stokes b Broad 23, Matthew Wade st. Bairstow b Root 117, Mitchell Marsh c Buttler b Root 24, Tim Paine lbw b Leach 21, Pat Cummins c Bairstow b Broad 9, Peter Siddle (not out) 13, Nathan Lyon c Root b Leach 1, Josh Hazlewood c Root b Leach 0; Extras (b-2, lb-12, nb-2, pen-5): 21; Total (in 77 overs): 263.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-29, 3-56, 4-85, 5-148, 6-200, 7-244, 8-260, 9-263.
England bowling: Broad 15-1-62-4, Archer 16-2-66-0, Curran 8-3-22-0, Leach 22-8-49-4, Woakes 7-1-19-0, Root 9-1-26-2.

England won by 135 runs, series tied 2-2, Australia retains Ashes

Bisht, Sanjeet advance

En garde! Kavinder Singh Bisht came through an exhausting bout against Chena Zhihao of China. ▪ COURTESY BFI/ TWITTER

BOXING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
EKATERINBURG

Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with hard-fought wins in the World men's boxing championships here on Sunday.

While fifth-seeded Bisht edged past China's Chena Zhihao 3-2, Sanjeet defeated Scotland's Scott Forrest in an equally draining contest for a 4-1 verdict in his favour.

Bisht will square off against Finland's Arslan Khataev in the round of 16.

Brijesh ousted

However, there was a disappointment as well with Brijesh Yadav (81kg) bowing out in a split 1-4 verdict against Turkey's Bayram Malkan.

The lack of aggressive intent in the first two rounds cost Brijesh as his fine comeback in the final round proved too little too late.

Earlier, Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) had advanced to the pre-quarterfinals.

Spain beats Argentina for the big prize

Gasol claims NBA-World Cup double

World champions: Spain led throughout in Beijing to win the trophy a second time. ▪ AFP

BASKETBALL WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Three-time All-Star Marc Gasol became only the second man to win an NBA crown and the World Cup in the same year after Spain brushed aside Argentina 95-75 here on Sunday.

Spain, which survived double overtime against Australia to reach the final, led throughout in Beijing to win international basketball's biggest prize a second time.

The only previous occasion was in 2006 with the two Gasol brothers, Marc and older sibling Pau, on the team.

Pau did not feature in China because of injury.

The latest triumph was particularly sweet for the 34-year-old centre Gasol, who three months ago also played a key part in the Toronto Raptors' run to the NBA title.

Gasol, who had 14 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, joins Lamar Odom, a double winner in 2010 with the United States and Los Angeles Lakers.

Surprise finalists Argentina had not triumphed since it hosted the inaugural World Cup in 1950.

As a contest, the final was over by the fourth quarter – although the Argentines did rally belatedly to reduce Spain's previously mighty lead.

Australia wait goes on

France roared back after half-time to defeat Australia 67-59 and claim a second World Cup bronze in a row – and extend the Boomers' long wait for a major medal.

The result (final): Spain 95 (Ricky Rubio 25, Sergio Llull 15, Marc Gasol 14) bt Argentina 75 (Gabriel Deck 24, Nico Laprovittola 17, Facundo Campazzo 11).

Teen sensation Fati leads charge

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
BARCELONA

Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati continued his explosive start to life in the first team by scoring and providing an assist as the *La Liga* champion thrashed Valencia 5-2 on Saturday.

Fati struck his first goal at the Camp Nou to give Barca the lead with less than two minutes on the clock, smashing a pass from Frenkie de Jong into the net.

The teenager then returned the favour by dashing into the area from the left wing and teeing up Dutchman De Jong to score his first goal for the club in the seventh minute.

Valencia pulled a goal back later in the half through Kevin Gameiro but Barca came flying back at it after the interval.

Gerard Pique bundled the ball into the net in the 51st minute after Antoine Griezmann had hit the post while Luis Suarez netted twice after coming off the bench.

Maxi Gomez got a consolation goal for Valencia in stoppage time.

Perfect start

Inter Milan went top of Serie A on Saturday after Stefano Sensi's header sealed a 1-0 win over 10 man Udinese at San Siro to continue its perfect start.

The results:

Premier League: Bournemouth 3 (Wilson 23, 72, Fraser 67) bt Everton 1 (Calvert-Lewin 44); Watford 2 (Cleverley 53, Pereyra 81-pen) drew with Arsenal 2 (Aubameyang 21, 32).

Serie A: Genoa 1 (Criscito 90+1-pen) lost to Atalanta 2 (Muriel 64-pen, Zapata 90+5); Brescia 3 (A. Donnarumma 10, 19, Cistana 42) lost to Bologna 4 (Bani 36, Palacio 56, Denswil 60, Orsolini 80); Parma 1 (Barilla 58) lost to Cagliari 3 (Ceppitelli 23, 39, Simeone 77); SPAL 2 (Petagna 63, Kurti 90+2) bt Lazio 1 (Immobile 17-pen); Roma 4 (Christante 12, Dzeko 19, Mkhitaryan 22, Kluivert 33) bt Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 53, 72).

La Liga: Eibar 1 (Ramis 58) lost to Espanyol 2 (Ferreyra 76, Granero 79); Deportivo Alaves 0 lost to Sevilla 1 (Joan Jordan 37); Celta Vigo 0 lost to Granada 2 (Sanchez 45+6, Herrera 54).

Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 0 lost to Freiburg 3 (Guenter 11, Haberer 38, Petersen 59); Paderborn 1 (Cauly 8) lost to Schalke 5 (Sane 33, Serdar 50, Harit 71, 85, Kutucu 83).

Saturday: La Liga: Leganes 0 lost to Villarreal 3 (Gerard 26, 90+3, Silva 39-og); Barcelona 5 (Fati 2, De Jong 7, Pique 51, Suarez 61, 82) bt Valencia 2 (Gameiro 27, Gūmez 90+2).

Serie A: Inter Milan 1 (Sensi 44) bt Udinese 0.

On fire: Ansu Fati, centre, was explosive in his first full start for Barcelona, where he netted the opener and also assisted in another goal. ▪ AFP

Dabang survives a Fortunegiants scare

Escape to victory: Naveen, right, who proved elusive time and again for the Fortunegiants defenders, scripted Dabang's win. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Dabang Delhi, on top of its attacking game in the first half, led 20-9 against Gujarat Fortunegiants at one stage, before getting rattled by a fightback from its rival at the Balewadi indoor stadium on Sunday. The early poise was replaced by pressure, culminating in a close 34-30 win for Dabang and a secure position atop the table. The Delhi side's 12th win in 15 matches took it closer to the playoffs.

Fortunegiants suffered two all-outs and looked like getting blown away by the in-form Dabang team. However, it came charged up after the breather, stretching the opponent all the way. Rohit Gulia top-scored with 13 raid points, but his effort went in vain. Naveen Kumar, who finished on the winning side, had his 13th consecutive Super 10 display and crossed 350 raid points along the way. He contributed 12 points.

On the go

The contest started with feisty raiders Naveen and Sachin on the prowl. The former sneaked in and away from the defence while the latter reacted well when the defenders tried to trap him. Both got out once before Naveen made a mark with a Super Raid, eluding three rivals. In the process, he inflicted the first all-out early on in the contest to make it 11-4 for Dabang. Sachin could not repeat the form shown against Puneri Paltan and it had a bearing on the final outcome.

The results: Dabang Delhi 34 (Naveen Kumar 12, Vijay 5) bt Gujarat Fortunegiants 30 (Rohit Gulia 13, Sachin Tanwar 4).

Patna Pirates 55 (Pardeep Narwal 18, Neeraj Kumar 11, Hadi Oshtorak 5) bt Puneri Paltan 33 (Manjeet 8, Pankaj Mohite 7, Nitin Tomar 6).

Adhiban, Nihal bow out

CHESS WC

SPORTS BUREAU
KHANTY MANSIYSK (RUSSIA)

B. Adhiban and Nihal Sarin crashed out of the World Cup chess tournament after losing their second-round rapid tie-break games by 1.5-0.5 margins here on Sunday.

Adhiban lost with white pieces to China's Yu Yangyi in 54 moves in the first game and drew the second with black in 40 moves.

Nihal lost with black pieces to Azerbaijani Eltaj Safarli in the first game in 61 moves. In the second, Nihal blundered on the 16th move by choosing not to capture his rival's knight. Thereafter, Safarli made two successive moves of sub-optimum strength and let the Indian take a draw in 25 moves.

P. Hari Krishna and Vidit Gujrathi, the only Indians left in the fray, will play Russia's Kirill Alekseenko and USA's Wesley So respectively on Tuesday.

Indian teams top groups

SPORTS BUREAU
YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team topped Group-B of the Asian table tennis championships here on Sunday, with 3-0 wins over Sri Lanka and Kuwait.

The women topped Group-C with 3-0 wins over Jordan and Lebanon.

TV PICKS

PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.
The Ashes: 5th Test, 5th day, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
World Wrestling Championships: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 12.30 p.m.; Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.20 a.m. (Tuesday)
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.15 a.m. (Tueaday)

IN BRIEF

Marquez closes in on sixth World title

MISANO ADRIATICO (ITALY)
Spaniard Marc Marquez snatched victory on the final lap at the San Marino Grand Prix on Sunday to close in on a sixth World title. The Honda rider took a third MotoGP win in Misano ahead of France's Fabio Quartararo, on a Yamaha-SRT. Five-time World champion Marquez won the 77th GP of his career in all categories to overtake British legend Mike 'The Bike' Hailwood. Pole-sitter Maverick Vinales completed the podium for Yahama. AFP

India defeats Oman

TEHRAN
India defeated Oman 22-25, 25-12, 25-21, 25-19 in a Group-C match of the 20th Asian senior men's volleyball championship held here on Sunday.

Sumit Nagal finishes runner-up

BANJA LUKA (BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA)
Seventh seed Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands scotched the aspirations of sixth seed Sumit Nagal with a 6-2, 6-3 victory in the final of the €46,600 Challenger tennis tournament here on Sunday. Sumit collected 48 ATP points and €3,650.

Kaushal rallies to victory in Myanmar

YANGON
Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the Myanmar International Series with a come-from-behind win over Indonesia's Karono Karono in a thrilling final here on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Mumbai recovered to outwit Karono 18-21, 21-14, 21-11 in a match that lasted an hour. A trainee of Uday Pawar Badminton Academy, Kaushal, who has been troubled by injuries for almost two years, is currently ranked 187th. PTI

Raghul keeps MRF F1600 crown

Dhruv Shivaji Mohite does the same in Indian Touring Cars category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Mamallapuram's Raghul Rangasamy retained the title in the MRF F1600 category as did Kolhapur's Dhruv Shivaji Mohite in the Indian Touring Cars class on the concluding day of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT here on Sunday.

Also winning the National titles in their respective categories were Rithvik Thomas, the 26-year old from Bengaluru (Super Stock), Chennai's Ashwin Datta (Formula LGB 1300) who had sealed the title on Saturday itself, Hyderabad's Jeet Jhabakh (Ameo Class) and Aiman Sadat (Bangladesh, Ameo Class Junior).

Dhruv Shivaji Mohite.

Yet again: Raghul Rangasamy (centre), who won the MRF F1600 category for the second year in a row, flanked by second-placed Yash Aradhya (left) and Sohil Shah. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Raghul, 26, thus, earned a sponsored drive from MRF Tyres in one round of the Civic Cup Racing Championship in the United Kingdom. Although he finished fifth in the last race, he picked up sufficient points to clinch the title for the second year in a row while finishing a highly productive weekend when he earned as many as 138 points.

"I am thrilled at this opportunity to race abroad and thank MRF for this opportunity which came as a pleasant surprise for me," said Raghul, who had started the weekend in seventh position on the leaderboard.

Mohite, winner of three National karting titles and the Volkswagen Ameo Cup last year, said: "It feels great to win the Touring Cars championship. It has been a great experience to race with some of the legends of Indian racing."

The results (provisional, all eight laps unless mentioned):

MRF F1600: Race-3: 1. Raghul Rangasamy (Mamallapuram) (13:27.614); 2. Yash Aradhya (Bengaluru) (13:32.277); 3. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (13:33.707).

Race-4: 1. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (13:43.620); 2. Nirmal Umashankar (Chennai) (13:43.763); 3. Manav Sharma (Faridabad) (13:45.136).

Indian Touring Cars: Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Arjun Narendran (Arka Motorsports) (18:56.842); 2. Dhruv Shivaji Mohite (Rayo Racing) (19:16.864); 3. Karthik Tharani (Rayo Racing) (19:17.401).

Super Stock: Race-1 (7 laps): 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (14:10.391); 2. Sudanand Daniel (Race Concepts) (14:16.329); 3. Archit Mylanda (Race Concepts) (14:44.876).

Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Rithvik (20:18.368); 2. Sudanand (20:30.084); 3. R. Raja Shekar (Race Concepts) (20:51.372).

Formula LGB 1300: Race-2: 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Momentum Motorsports) (15:34.910); 2. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports) (15:37.407); 3. Arya Singh (DTS Racing) (15:40.848).

Volkswagen Ameo Class: Race-2: 1. Anmol Singh Sahil (Delhi) (15:43.297); 2.Jeeth Jhabakh (Hyderabad) (15:44.294); 3. Tasmin Pepper (South Africa) (15:44.692).

Race-3: 1. Pepper (15:30.299); 2. Jeffrey Kruger (South Africa) (15:30.612); 3. Jeet (15:46.550).

National Championship winners: MRF F1600: Raghul.

Indian Touring Cars: Dhruv. **Team:** Race Concepts (Bengaluru).

Super Stock: Rithvik. **Team:** Race Concepts (Bengaluru).

Formula LGB 1300: Ashwin Datta (Chennai, Momentum Motorsports). **Team:** Momentum Motorsports (Chennai).

Volkswagen Ameo Class: Jeet Jhabakh (Hyderabad) and Aiman Sadat (Bangladesh, Junior).

Sourabh wins Vietnam Open

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY

India's Sourabh Verma registered a thrilling three-game win over China's Sun Fei Xiang to claim the title at the $75,000 Vietnam Open BWF Tour Super 100 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

Second seed Sourabh, who won the Hyderabad Open and Slovenian International earlier this year, recovered from a mid-game slump to beat Sun 21-12, 17-21, 21-14 in the summit clash which lasted an hour and 12 minutes.

Tackling the Japanese

"I am very happy with the way, I played this week. I played three Japanese and these players have a similar style. Most like to attack and the little differences in their style is something you have to figure out on the court. So it was nice to beat them," Sourabh said.

He beat three Japanese – Kodai Naraoka, Yu Igarashi and Minoru Koga – on way to the title.

The World No. 38 Indian said: "In the first game, I waited for his weak returns. I realised his defence was a little weak, so I looked to exploit that. He committed too many unforced errors and it helped me.

"In the second game, I was troubled by the drift from one side and he jumped into a huge lead. But after the change of sides in the decider, I went back to the strategy that worked," the National champion said.

Moment to cherish: Sourabh Verma recovered from a mid-match slump to emerge victorious. ▪SOURABH VERMA/INSTAGRAM

Subha Ghosh gives Bagan full points

Moves to second on the points table

CFL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Subha Ghosh's solitary goal fetched Mohun Bagan a much-needed win against Rainbow Club in the Calcutta Football League Premier Division 'A' at the Kalyani Stadium on Sunday. Recovering from its loss to Aryan Club in the previous outing, Bagan recorded its fourth victory in eight matches to tie with table-topper Peerless Club on 14 points and rise to the second spot.

Ghosh headed in Joseba Beitia's corner kick to score the all-important goal in the 65th minute. After taking the lead Bagan intensified its attack, but could not breach the Rainbow defence again.

Rainbow showed aggression in the closing quarter, but Bagan goalkeeper Debjit Majumder made some fine saves to ensure full points for the Mariners.

IFA reduces penalty

Meanwhile, the Indian Football Association (IFA) has reduced the penalty of East Bengal players and coaches following an appeal. Players Lalrindika Ralte and Mehtab Singh, who have already served a one-match suspension, will pay a fine of ₹75,000 each instead of ₹1 lakh. Manager Debraj Chowdhury and goalkeeping coach Abhra Mondal will pay ₹75,000 instead of serving one-year suspension.

The result: Mohun Bagan 1 (Subha Ghosh 65) bt Rainbow Club 0.

Beckham swept off feet by Spurs stadium

David Beckham. ▪AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

David Beckham has told Mauricio Pochettino he wishes he could play for Tottenham Hotspur at the club's new stadium.

"I think it's an amazing stadium," said Pochettino. "... David Beckham said, 'I wish I could still play football and play now for Tottenham because this stadium is amazing,'" Pochettino said.

Gill pleased despite reverse

Technical problem puts paid to podium finish hopes

RALLY OF TURKEY

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

It was so near yet so far for India's finest rally driver Gaurav Gill (co-driver Glen Macneall) as a mechanical failure let him down yet again in the gruelling WRC Rally of Turkey in Marmaris on Sunday.

Going in the final day, the JK Racing star, competing in the WRC2 class, went full throttle from the start finishing second in the first stage and followed it up with another brilliant run in the next stage.

And just when the going was good, the transmission of the car seized, crushing his hopes of a brilliant finish.

Frustrating

"It is literally very frustrating but this is how cruel the sport is. You put in lots of hard work for months together for JK Tyre and the team and it snaps in a second," Gill said in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*.

Pat on the back: Gaurav Gill earned praise from fellow competitors for his gutsy display. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I was consistently among the top three. We did not have enough testing and we chose the most difficult rally in the world to test our strengths. And, I am personally pleased with my show but, it can be better still."

"I will still strive and drive hard as I can because for me it is always never enough," he added.

Glen said they are used to these things. "It is now for us to learn what to do different and how to be faster instead of sitting and getting upset. Gaurav was easily the fastest. He is very skilful and naturally talented but it was quite unfortunate," he said.

Kunal Anand in main draw

SPORTS BUREAU
LUDHIANA

Kunal Anand outplayed Gourav Gulia 6-1, 6-1 in the third and final qualifying round of the Rs.250,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy, Jassowal, on Sunday.

Kunal has been given the top seeding in the main draw which also has players like Mohit Mayur, Dalwinder Singh Ishaque Eqbal, Suraj Prabodh, Jatin Dahiya etc.

The results: Qualifying singles (third and final round): Kunal Anand bt Gourav Gulia 6-1, 6-1; Mnadeep Yadav bt Ankit Chopra 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Mayank Yadav bt Himanshu Mor 6-0, 7-5; Deepinder Singh Bains bt Yashdeep Gahlot 6-3, 6-4; Amandeep Rathee bt Ashutosh Tiwari 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Rishiraj Shekhawat bt Shivank Bhatnagar 1-6, 6-2, 6-0; Sunil Kumar bt Harshit Yadav 6-2, 7-5; Sashikant Rajput bt Parav Dev Garg 6-0, 6-3.

Hie on a high

CLASSIC GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Completing a wire-to-wire domination, Indonesia's Rory Hie deservedly won the $300,000 Classic Golf and Country Club International Championship here on Sunday.

Hie's maiden professional title came following his impressive tally of 21-under 267 that gave him a two-shot winning margin.

The highlight of his final-round four-under 68 was the hat-trick of birdies from the 13th hole that firmly placed him beyond the reach of second-placed Rashid Khan and Korea's Byungjun Kim.

"It was always my dream to walk up the 18th green with a two-shot lead and that's what happened," said Hie after ending a 11-year wait for his first title as a professional.

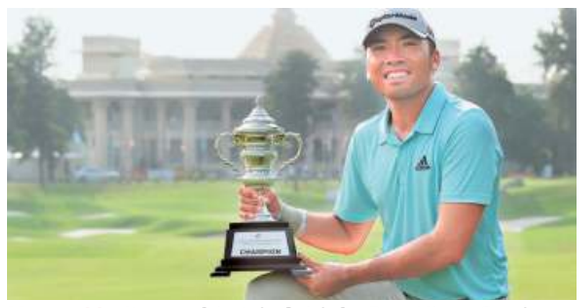
Hie, sole leader after every round, collected $54,000 and the winner's trophy. After becoming the first Indonesian winner on the Asian Tour, Hie said, "This win will also open a lot of doors," said the 31-year-old.

Rashid Khan, who caught with Hie at 18-under after the fifth hole, fell back by shots after his bogey on the 15th was met by a birdie by the eventual champion. It was his final-hole birdie that saw him climb to the joint second place with a round of 69.

Byungjun Kim, who shared the lead at 18-under with Hie and Rashid after 10 holes, could not come up with a strong finish. Rashid and Kim received $25,950 each.

The strongest finish of the round came from young Aadil Bedi who fired birdies on the last five holes! He carded a 66 to take to the fourth spot, worth $15,000.

The scores: 267: Rory Hie (Ina) (64, 68, 67, 68); **269:** Byungjun Kim (Kor) (69, 66, 67, 67), Rashid Khan (68, 66, 66, 69); **270:** Aadil Bedi (67, 68, 69, 66); **272:** Aman Raj (67, 67, 72, 66), Kwanchai Tannin (Tha) (66, 72, 68, 66), Suttijet Koorantanapisan (Tha) (70, 72, 63, 67) and Abhijit Chadha (68, 65, 68, 71).



Memorable: It was a fairytale finish for Rory Hie on Sunday. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anjum takes top spot

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Anjum Moudgil prevailed in the women's 50-metre rifle 3-position event yet again in the seventh National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Sunday.

After qualifying with a modest 1162, two points behind former World champion Tejaswini Sawant, Anjum clinched the top spot in the event with a total of 460.2, as she beat World Cup silver medallist Lajja Gauswami by 3.7 points.

Anjum had topped the earlier trial with a better score in the qualification phase.

In the junior event, Prasiddhi beat Ayushi Podder by 4.6 points for the top spot.

Competition will continue with women's air pistol and men's centre fire pistol over the next two days.

The results: Men: 25m standard pistol: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 587; 2. Udhayveer Sidhu 575; 3. Sunny Mansukhbhai Dudani 574.

Juniors: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 587; 2. Udhayveer Sidhu 575; 3. Viraj Vijay Rokade 567.

Women: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Anjum Moudgil 460.2 (1162); 2. Lajja Gauswami 456.5 (1154); 3. Tejaswini Sawant 442.0 (1164).

Juniors: 1. Prasiddhi 449.9 (1147); 2. Ayushi Podder 445.3 (115); 3. Ashi Chouksey 436.0 (1145).

Corfe Castle may score an encore

HYDERABAD: Corfe Castle, who maintains form, may score an encore in the Chief Minister's Cup (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Monday (Sept. 16).

1 **SWAMY RAMANANDA TIRTHA PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-10 p.m.: 1. Ashwa Yudh Vijeta (3) Koushik 56, 2. Blazing Jupiter (7) Kuldeep Singh 56, 3. Unstoppable (4) Zervan 56, 4. Vijays Maestro (6) Gopal Singh 56, 5. Alliston (8) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. Angel Tesoro (1) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 7. Flamboyant Lady (2) A. Sandesh 54.5, 8. Flying Queen (5) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 9. Her Legacy (-) (-) 54.5.
1. ANGEL TESORO, 2. FLAMBOYANT LADY, 3. ALLISTON.

2 **HERITAGE PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over (winner of not more than two races), rated 40- to 65 (Cat. II), 2-45: 1. Midnight Dream (5) Kuldeep Singh 60, 2. Nayadeep (1) Ashhad Asbar 58.5, 3. Consigliori (6) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 4. Gusty Look (4) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Explosive (3) Suraj Narredu 55, 6. Havelock Cruise (7) Zervan 55, 7. Wings Of Eagles (8) Afroz Khan 54 and 8. Blue Empress (2) Santosh Raj 53.
1. MIDNIGHT DREAM, 2. CONSIGLIORI, 3. GUSTY LOOK.

3 **PERCEIVED VALUE PLATE** (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-20: 1. Mehrzad (8) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Tokyo Jam (1) Akshay Kumar 58, 3. Wind Power (6) Santosh Raj 57.5, 4. Bar Et Law (4) Koushik 56, 5. Fabulous Gift (3) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 6. Promiseofhappiness (7) Suraj Narredu 55.5, 7. Surseine (5) P. Sai Kumar 55.5 and 8. Most Wanted (2) C.P. Bopanna 55.
1. TOKYO JAM, 2. PROMISEOFHAPPINESS, 3. MEHRZAD.

4 **DYNAMIC DANCER PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over (winner of not more than two races), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-55: 1. Man Apart (7) Afroz Khan 60, 2. Southern State (11) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Running Fire (6) Kiran Naidu 59, 4. Natasha (9) Jitendra Singh 57.5, 5. Guiding Force (10) Santosh Raj 57, 6. Latest News (2) B. Nikhil 56, 7. Baywatch Babe (3) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 8. Agilis (1) Harinder Singh 53.5, 9. Mr. Bruss (4) Gaddam 53, 10. Smarty (5) Ajeeth Kumar 52.5 and 11. Escalating Striker (8) Ajit Singh 51.
1. MAN APART, 2. SOUTHERN STATE, 3. SMARTY.

5 **CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, (Cat. I), (Terms), 4-30: 1. Corfe Castle (3) Akshay Kumar 61, 2. Like Wise (7) Suraj Narredu 55, 3. Wave Rider (1) A. Sandesh 53.5, 4. Phenomenal Cruise (4) Zervan 52, 4. Somerset (6) Ajit Singh 52, 6. That's My Class (5) Afroz Khan 52 and 7. Be Sure (2) Nakhat Singh 50.5.
1. CORFE CASTLE, 2. WAVE RIDER, 3. BE SURE.

6 **RAJA MEHBOOB KARAN MEMORIAL PLATE** (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 5-05: 1. Pentagon (5) Afroz Khan 62.5, 2. Tootsie Roll (8) Jitendra Singh 62, 3. News O' Star (4) Gaurav Singh 61.5, 4. Ashwa Raftar (3) Suraj Narredu 60.5, 5. Indian Dreams (1) Khurshad Alam 57, 6. Royal Dynamite (11) B.R. Kumar 58.5, 7. Vijay's Empire (10) R. Ajinkya 57.5, 8. Bayrd (9) Kiran Naidu 57, 9. Vancouver (6) R.S. Jodha 56, 10. Shandaar (7) Ajit Singh 55 and 11. Humaaghar (2) Akshay Kumar 54.
1. ASHWA RAFTAR, 2. HUMAAGHAR, 3. PENTAGON.

Day's best: **CORFE CASTLE.**
Double: **MIDNIGHT DREAM – TOKYO JAM.**
Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 & 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 4, 5 & 6; Tla: all races.

Greco-Roman wrestlers disappoint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Ravi won India's first bout at the World Championships before suffering a defeat by fall as the country's Greco-Roman wrestlers' disappointing show continued here on Sunday.

Olympic qualification was at stake in three categories. However, all three Indians cut a sorry figure as Manish (67kg), Sunil Kumar (87kg) and Ravi (97kg) exited.

Poonwalla's team determined to turn things around at RWITC

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, who recently took over as the chairman of the Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd, (RWITC), shared his and his team's vision and plans here on Sunday.

The team, which comprises of Zavaray Poonawalla (chairman), Geoffrey B. Nagpal, Zinia Lawyer, Milan Luthria and S.R. Sanas, has promised to work tirelessly to improve the image of horse-racing at the RWITC.

"We have a very dedicated and sincere panel which has got terrific integrity and passion for racing. They are putting their every bit to see that RWITC comes out of trouble and we have been determined since the moment we have been elected," said Poonawalla.

"The sport is at a very critical stage now and with the RWITC struggling for funds, this is a make-or-break year for us. We are committed to the cause. My committee and I will not shy away from putting money from our pockets to restore the sport," added Poonawalla.

When asked about the issue pertaining to bookmakers and GST, Poonawalla said "the bookmakers and GST are the major criteria, because if the bookmakers at Mumbai are put into position, the club would be gaining about a crore rupees in a month and the deficit financing, which is at the moment going on, will immediately get stabilised.

"About the GST issue in racing, I have personally spoken to the concerned Government authorities and we are hopeful of relaxation in GST will greatly benefit our sport."

Man on a mission: Zavaray Poonawalla, flanked by son Yohan, is keen to bring the happy days back at the RWITC. ▪JIGNESH MISTRY

Geoffrey Nagpal, chairman, stewards of the club, said "the two main problems we are facing are the financials and the perception of racing.

The financials is to be tackled immediately by the return of the bookmakers, which Mr. Sanas is going to take it up, and, as regards GST, Mr. Zavaray has worked very hard on it. The perception of racing needs to be improved."

Zinia Lawyer, marketing head, RWITC, said "I feel from the marketing angle also. Unless the perception about racing is not improved, our sponsors will not be happy. It is very important to have a clean racing platform to attract sponsors and youngsters to racing.

"Apart from turning RWITC into a profitable venture, the committee also hopes to revive evening races and make it a permanent fixture in the racing calendar. It also plans to entice the youth by investing in social media marketing."

Chirag & Satwik eye consistent run

Back from injury lay-off, the pair looks to seal Tokyo Olympic ticket

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Returning from an injury lay-off, India's leading doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is eyeing a consistent run to break into the top-5 and seal a spot for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The duo had broken into the top-10 last month after its historic feat of becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a BWF Super 500 title at the Thailand Open.

However, both Chirag and Satwik ended up with injuries during the tournament and had to skip the prestigious World Championship in Basel, Switzerland.

The relaunch: Satwiksairaj and Chirag, back from an injury lay-off, will be keen to fire on all cylinders again. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Rankings slip

While Chirag suffered an abdominal muscle injury, Satwik aggravated a right-shoulder injury and the time away from the circuit affected the pair's ranking as it slipped to World No. 15.

Now back to full fitness having undergone a rigorous training schedule, the duo is looking to go all out at the $1,000,000 China Open starting on Tuesday.

"We are completely fit now. We will go full throttle and hope to do well in China and Korea. We had lost in the first round in China last year, so we will look to go deep into the draw. It is a Super 1000 event and will help our ranking," Chirag said.

"We need to be consistent. We will look to end the year in the top-10 and then from January to April next year, if we can play a couple of quarters or semifinals, we will be in the top-5 and be able to comfortably seal our berth for the Tokyo Olympics.

"It will be difficult to maintain the ranking points. But the good thing is we don't have to defend it any ranking points early next year because we didn't play from January to April this year," said the 22-year-old.

Gearing up

Asked about their preparation for the events in China and Korea, Chirag said: "We had full-fledged practice sessions for the China Open. We focused on running and agility in the first week and then in the next two weeks, it was more of on-court training.

"We have been varying our shots, mixing our smashes, half-smashes and drops to have a multi-dimensional game."

Chirag and Satwik will face Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura in the opening round at th China Open.

"We are playing a Canadian pair. Satwik and I haven't played them though I had faced them at the Swiss Open with Pranaav Jerry Chopra. So that experience will count. I know we are coming back from an injury, but there is no pressure," Chirag added.

Asian u-14 tennis from today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It will be a good opportunity for the young Indian players to compete at home in the Asian under-14 grade-A junior tennis tournament to be staged at the DLTA Complex from Monday.

Rushil Khosla is set to lead a bunch of talented Indian palyers like Agriya Yadav, Ayushmaan Arjeria, Damir Kaidybekov of Kazakhstan, Kasra Rahmani and Artin Nazari of Iran apart from Victor Mohanram of Spain are some of the foreign nationals, expected to make the event competitive in the boys' section.

In the girls' section, Maria Breidy of Lebanon will be the top seed ahead of Pari Singh and Jeeah Lee of Korea.

A bunch of other good players like Chandni Srinivasan, Nandini Dixit and Shruti Ahlawat will be watched with interest.

As a grade-A tournament, the event offers hospitality to the main draw players, and thus ensures a quality field.

Back-to-back win for Fernandez

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MISANO ADRIATICO

Spaniard Augusto Fernandez snatched victory in the final lap to make it back-to-back wins this season in Moto2 at the San Marino Grand Prix here on Sunday.

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